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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Meetings Resume in Tunis

JN2103130494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Report by Muhammad Kurayshan from Tunis]

[Text] Palestinian-Israeli meetings resumed in Tunis this morning. As is known, the Israeli delegation is led by Amnon Shahaq while the Palestinian delegation is made up of Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Ahmad Quray', and Akram Haniyah. Yesterday, the two delegations held a meeting that was also attended by President Yasir 'Arafat and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

According to Dr. Samir Ghawshah, PLO Executive Committee member, the Israeli delegation did not present serious proposals on the safety of Palestinians in the occupied territories. What he proposed, Ghawshah said, did not meet the minimum requirements. This, he added, means practically emptying the Security Council Resolution [904] of its substance.

Speaking to our radio, the Palestinian official said the Israelis had, for example, proposed turning the International Red Cross representatives in the occupied territories into international observers, according to an Israeli concept of the way to implement the Security Council's call for a temporary international presence in the occupied territories. It seems that during its talks here in Tunis, the Israeli delegation showed no positive response to proposals by Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Larsen on the security measures that should be taken in the occupied territories as Yitzhaq Rabin promised in his telephone call with Yasir 'Arafat last Friday.

U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross is due in Tunis this afternoon. According to some sources, a quadrapartite meeting of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations as well as Ross and Larsen is expected to be held to help develop the Israeli proposals to protect the Palestinians. It will be according to these proposals that the Palestinian stand toward the resumption of negotiations will be determined.

Ross Holds Meetings With Palestinians, Israelis

'Arafat, Ross Meet

LD2103192594 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Dennis Ross, U.S coordinator for Middle East Affairs, arrived in Tunis this afternoon and immediately met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. It has been learned from the PLO headquarters that these talks are focussing on the formal resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations after the UN Security Council condemned, in its Resolution No. 904, the massacre at the Tomb of Patriarchs [in Hebron].

The Palestinian president had earlier met, for the second time since yesterday, an Israeli delegation that is carrying proposals on security measures to be taken by Israel to ensure the protection of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The Israelis have said that they would implement these measures only after a date for the resumption of talks on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho is announced.

In an interview with the U.S. newspaper NEW YORK TIMES, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had said that it was very difficult to resume talks with Israel under the pressure of aggressive practices [as heard] and that talks held under such conditions would not last very long.

Ross Says Talks 'Useful'

JN2103175694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Report by Muhammad Kurayshan from Tunis]

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross will resume talks this evening. Following the first round of talks this afternoon between'Arafat and Ross, which lasted for one and a half hours, Dennis Ross said the meeting was useful. However, he did not elaborate.

We learned that the meeting focused on listening to the Palestinian viewpoint following the issuance of the Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre. The Palestinian side said that what is required from Washington now—in its capacity as one of the cosponsors—is to intervene effectively to implement the provisions of Resolution 904, particularly regarding international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation. It cannot just be satisfied with listening to the Palestinian and Israeli viewpoints but must try to bring them closer.

The Palestinian side underscored the need for an international security force in the occupied territory, not just observers. The Palestinian side also reiterated the need for reaching a clear solution to the issue of settlers in Hebron and for disarming them.

Dennis Ross is expected to meet with the Israeli delegation led by Amnon Shahaq before resuming his talks with the Palestinian leadership this evening.

'Abd-Rabbuh: No 'Tangible Results'

NC2103185494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 21 Mar (MENA)—Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator on the peace process in the Middle East, described his talks with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat today as "good and useful." In a statement following his meeting with 'Arafat, which lasted about two hours this afternoon, Ross said that he will continue the talks with 'Arafat and his aides this evening.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that today's talks with Ross did not yield tangible results. 'Abd-Rabbuh, who took part in the talks, said that the issues that were discussed with Ross included providing international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the form of the international presence approved by the Security Council in these territories, and the status of the Israeli settlements.

Ross Briefs Israeli Delegation

NC2103200994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 21 Mar (MENA)—Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator on the peace process in the Middle East, this evening met with the Israeli delegation currently visiting Tunis to discuss ways of resuming the negotiations between the PLO and Israel and implement the Declaration of Principles agreement. Ross briefed the Israeli delegation on the outcome of his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today on the possibility of resuming the talks as quickly as possible. The Israeli delegation briefed Ross on the results of its meeting with the Palestinian party yesterday evening, the Palestinian stance on the Israeli proposals to resume these negotiations, and the conditions the PLO is making for a return to the negotiating table.

The Israeli delegation, which includes Uri Savir, foreign ministry director general, and General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks, arrived in Tunis yesterday.

'Arafat, Ross Conclude Talks

LD2203074294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] During the talks held in Tunis on 20 March and Monday the PLO and Israel did not reach any agreement on conditions for the resumption of the peace negotiations but they agreed to resume talks for this purpose tomorrow, Wednesday, in Cairo.

A Palestinian source said that the Israelis had brought general proposals on the international presence, [in the occupied territories] security measures on the ground and the stationing of the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho.

The talks between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross also ended yesterday evening with a second meeting, which lasted over an hour. At the end of the meeting the U.S. official made clear his satisfaction with what had been achieved on a number of issues, which he refused to clarify, saying that what was more important was that something had been accomplished. Dennis Ross will leave Tunis this morning for Cairo.

Ghawshah Says Teams To Resume Talks in Cairo

NC2203100694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah has stated that the donor states supporting Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho have agreed to move their meeting, which was scheduled to take place in Paris Thursday, to Cairo.

He told a MENA coprrespondent in Tunis that a Palestinian and an Israeli delegation will meet on the sidelines of the donor states' meeting to continue yesterday's talks in Tunis between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and an Israeli delegation led by Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli team to the Taba negotiations.

Ghawshah said the Israeli delegation promised that during the Cairo meeting it will reply to some Palestinian questions on the transitional international presence in the occupied territories, the status of the settlements, and protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

'Compromise' on Palestinian Security Said Likely

NC2103193394 Paris AFP in English 1921 GMT 21 March 94

[Text] Tunis, March 21 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO appeared headed Monday [21 March] for a compromise on boosting security for Palestinians in the occupied territories following the Hebron massacre, diplomats said.

The compromise proposed by Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Terje Larsen would allow between 300 and 500 lightly armed observers to be deployed in the West Bank town of Hebron, they added.

Between 600 and 1,000 other observers would be deployed in the Gaza Strip, while between 1,100 and 1,200 men would be dispatched to Jericho.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat agrees to the plan so long as it is implemented quickly, the diplomats said.

The observers, totalling between 2,000 to 2,700 men, would conduct joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols under Israeli command.

The diplomats said Arafat would likely go to Paris Thursday for talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and for discussions with European donors to the financial aid plan for the future self-rule authorities.

The PLO suspended talks to launch autonomy in Gaza and Jericho after a Jewish settler shot dead 30 Arab worshippers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron last month.

The PLO has vowed not to resume the talks until it receives adequate security guarantees from Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak To Visit Qatar, Bahrain To Ease Tensions

JN2003203894 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 5

[Excerpt] AL-MUHARRIR has learned that in the next few days Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will undertake a shuttle trip to the Gulf to remove the causes of tension between Qatar and Bahrain. The tour will take place in light of the military concentrations which threatens a confrontation between the two countries over the Islands of Hawar and Fasht al-Dibal. The two states have moved artillery and missile batteries toward the disputed areas. Mubarak's urgent contacts with the two states helped ease the tension and have postponed any clashes.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received an urgent report on the developments of the crisis, as well as documents the two sides presented to the International Court of Justice, which has been examining the dispute since November 1992. The report says that the recent escalation resulted from the struggle among foreign companies prospecting for oil in the disputed areas. [passage omitted]

Arab League Studies Middle East Market

JN1903111194 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the establishment of a Middle East market should not scare the Arab states because it is contingent on Arab approval. He said that reaching a settlement of the Middle East crisis does not mean giving Israel economic advantages.

In a study on this issue, the Arab League said that reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East implies ordinary commercial relations with Israel but does not necessarily mean linking the Arab states with Israel by a free trade zone.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the ability of the Arab states to deal with the Middle East market basically depends on ensuring their unity and preserving their identity. He described Israel as a small area in the world with limited resources amid a large Arab world with big resources. He noted that the establishment of a Middle East market should not scare the Arab states because it is basically contingent on Arab approval. Reaching a settlement of the Middle East crisis does not mean granting Israel economic advantages.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed the need for the Arab states to coordinate their stands on this market and to prepare a unified strategy that adopts the [word indistinct] Arab interests. He noted that the Middle East Market may include other countries in the region, such as Cyprus, Turkey, and Iran.

A study of the Middle East market prepared by the economic department in the Arab League emphasized the need to look for new methods to back the Arab economy by developing an agreement on facilitating and developing trade exchanges and establishing an Arab free trade zone. The study attributes the weakness of the Arab economy to the weakness of its production bases, the low technological level, and the competition among Arab economies in producing similar products, in addition to the low level of Arab investments in Arab countries.

The Arab League sent this study to Arab finance and economy ministers late last month in preparation for presenting it to the next session of the Arab League's foreign ministers' council in late March. The study defined the factors of [Israel's] economic strength due to its high level of technological development in the field of manufacturing industries and in the agricultural sector, the private sector's responsibility for running the Israeli economy, adopting export-oriented policy, the increase in the accumulation of capital, and the high production level of the Israeli worker.

The study sheds light on the weak points of the Israeli economy, especially its dependence on external assistance, lack of raw materials, and the reduction of the future development growth.

[Words indistinct] UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali the developments of conditions in the occupied territory following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, the situation in Bosnia and the Gulf, and the UN stand, and Israel's refusal to be committed to any international resolution on occupied territory during their attendance of the international law symposium to be held in Qatar 21-23 March.

A responsible Arab League source said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will discuss with Butrus-Ghali the developments in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the Israeli obstacles, beginning with Israel's noncompliance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and ending with the Hebron massacre. The source added that the repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and the displacement of thousands of Lebanese families will also be discussed. The source said that [words indistinct] issues discussed on the Arab League council on 26 March.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 15 Mar

NC1803160394

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 15 March issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

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1. Merciful Nature of Islam

2. Foreign Invasions Linked to Muslims' Weakness and Division
3. No Separation of the Sexes in Islam
4. Freedom of Opinion in Islam
5. Islam in Singapore
6. Muslims in Cambodia
7. Veiled Students in France Prevented From Entering Schools
8. Banning of Satellite Dishes in Saudi Arabia

MERCIFUL NATURE OF ISLAM

On page seven, the newspaper carries a 1,000-word article by Grand Shaykh of al-Azhar Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq entitled "Islam is a Religion of Mercy." Jad-al-Haq confines himself to religious issues to stress the merciful nature of Islam. He cites several sayings by the Prophet Muhammad on this topic.

FOREIGN INVASIONS LINKED TO MUSLIMS' WEAKNESS AND DIVISION

Also on page seven, the newspaper features a 900-word article by Islamic writer Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah. He maintains there is an "organic link" between foreign threats and invasions and the Muslims' weakness and backwardness. He says all foreign invasions of Muslim lands took place when the Muslims were weak and divided. To substantiate his views, he cites the Crusades 1096-1291, the Tatar invasion of Baghdad in 1258, and the French campaign in Egypt under Napoleon Bonaparte between 1769 and 1805.

NO SEPARATION OF THE SEXES IN ISLAM

On pages eight and nine, Shaykh Ahmad Abu-al-'Ala' answers readers' questions on several religious issues. In answer to a question by a female student on Islam's ruling regarding coeducational schools and colleges, he says that "Islam does not call for the complete separation of the two sexes" but has asked the people to be modest in their dressing so as not to encourage adultery. He adds that Islam allows men and women to meet in mosques. Therefore, if this is allowed in places of worship, it is also allowed in colleges and schools provided that it does not lead to fornication.

FREEDOM OF OPINION IN ISLAM

On page nine, the newspaper carries an 800-word article by Hamid Isma'il entitled "Freedom of Opinion in Islam." He says "Islam has guaranteed freedom of thought and expression." However, he notes that Islam has recommended that this freedom be exercised in its "correct framework," which "builds and does not destroy," "does not insult religious and moral values," and "does not undermine national unity or expose society to dangers." The writer says Islam calls for freedom of opinion in social, political, and economic issues on which views may differ. However, as regards religious issues that are clearly defined in written texts, there is no room for different opinions. For instance, when Islam says alcohol is banned or a thief's hand must be chopped off, there is no room for a divergent opinion.

ISLAM IN SINGAPORE

On page 20, the newspaper carries a 600-word report on Islam in Singapore. The report notes that Muslims constitute 15.5 percent of Singapore's 3 million inhabitants. It adds that over 500 people convert to Islam annually.

MUSLIMS IN CAMBODIA

On page 20, the newspaper carries a 150-word report on the plight of Muslims in Cambodia. The report says the Khmer Rouge killed 65,000 Muslims in Cambodia during its reign. The Khmer Rouge persecuted non-Communists, especially Muslims whose numbers, because of emigration, have shrunk from 800,000 to 200,000.

VEILED STUDENTS IN FRANCE PREVENTED FROM ENTERING SCHOOLS

Citing the Islamic AL-ISLAH magazine, which is published in France, the newspaper in a 150-word report on page 21 says that over 200 female French-Muslim students are prevented from entering their classes because they wear veils. The report also noted that France's Muslims are facing a problem because the French interior minister has prevented nonresident Muslim preachers from participating in the religious enlightenment of the Muslims.

BANNING OF SATELLITE DISHES IN SAUDI ARABIA

On page 21, the newspaper notes in a 100-word report that the Saudi Government has decided to ban the importation of satellite dishes or their local manufacture. It notes that the Saudi Information Ministry will be in charge of receiving satellite television programs and will transmit them to viewers through a cable system in "a way conforming with religious and social values."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Rabin Reportedly To Sign 'Final Measures'

NC2003145294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—A responsible Egyptian source has stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are expected to sign the final measures for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in the coming few weeks in Cairo. The same source noted that early empowerment may also apply to the Hebron area, in addition to Gaza and Jericho, adding that a Palestinian police force will be permitted in Hebron and a Palestinian mayor will be appointed there.

The same source stressed that the recent outlawing of the Kakh and Kahana terrorist movements in Israel was a considerable gain by the Palestinian negotiators, noting that president 'Arafat played all his cards with great skill during the negotiations that followed the recent massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

'Arafat Meets Russian Envoy Twice in 24 Hours

LD2103181894 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the president of the state of Palestine and the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, today received Mr. Viktor Posuvalyuk, envoy of Russian President Yeltsin, for the second time in the last 24 hours. Brother Abu 'Ammar had received the Russian envoy yesterday evening and during the meeting was handed a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev that stressed Russia's determination to help with all its resources in the implementation of the clauses of the UN Security Council resolution after the Israeli massacre in the holy al-Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron.

The Russian minister said Russia's stance was to regard this resolution as of the greatest importance, as well as the need to ensure international protection for Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories and Russia's return to participating in practical measures regarding an international presence in the occupied territories.

The meeting provided an occasion for President Abu 'Ammar to brief the Russian envoy on the latest developments in the situation after the UN resolution. He also asked the Russian Government in its capacity as a co-sponsor of the peace process to hasten the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

'Arafat Urges EC Envoys To Implement Resolution

LD2103194994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Brother President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received last night their excellencies the European Union ambassadors delegation, which was led by the Greek ambassador. The delegation included the Belgian ambassador, the German charge d' affaires, and the European Commission ambassador. The brother President Abu 'Ammar briefed them on the latest development in the peace process and the UN Security Council Resolution 904 on the al-Ibrahami Mosque massacre.

The brother president called upon the ambassadors' prime ministers to swiftly implement the UN Security Council 904 on the protection of our Palestinian people in the Palestinian occupied territories, asserting the need for the European countries' participation in the international forces to be sent to the Palestinian occupied territories to protect our Palestinian people.

'Arafat Reportedly Displeased With Jordan Media

JN2003161794 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] The latest news about Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat says the man is angry these days because the Jordanian authorities have overlooked the popular media campaign against PLO policy and against him personally following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The Khalil al-Rahman Society and some Palestinian camps near Amman recently staged mammoth popular demonstrations, during which the demonstrators chanted against the old man ['Arafat] and demanded him to cancel the Oslo and Cairo agreements. The Jordanian newspapers, both independent and party papers, also launched a campaign in which they called for the cancellation of agreements with Israel.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said during the Palestinian leadership's meeting in Tunis that this campaign is directed against him personally, as well as the PLO leadership. He blamed the Jordanian Government for not quelling the demonstrators or preventing columnists from writing against him.

AL-MUHARRIR has learned that 'Arafat's anger was about to express itself in practice when he proposed transferring 15 Palestinian leaders from Jordan to Tunisia. However, leading Palestinian politicians rejected this proposal and considered it an attempt to strain relations with Jordan for no convincing reason. The proposal was thus frozen pending discussion in future meetings.

Fatah Delegation From Nablus To Arrive in Tunis

LD2103180694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Upon a telephone invitation from Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the brother president, a delegation from the cadres and members of the Fatah Movement in the Nablus region will this morning head for Tunis to discuss and examine issues of interest to the movement in the region; this is what Sarhan Duwaykat, head of the delegation, said.

He affirmed that numerous problems have been accumulating in the region for years and now required the necessary treatment in consultation with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

In addition to Duwaykat, the departing delegation would be composed of: Jamal al-Tayarawi, Mu'adh al-Masri, Muhammad 'Awdah, Ahmad Dhawqan, Abd al-Rahim al-Dib'i, Mu'in Hilal, Abbud al-Hindi, and Amjad Abu Salihiyah.

Fatah Official: U.S. Reservation 'Blow' to Accord

JN2103191194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Mar
94 p 44

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee began a series of meeting in Tunis yesterday. The 18-man committee, chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, is discussing the political situation and the developments in the occupied territory following the issuance of the Security Council resolution on the massacre of the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

President 'Arafat called for the meeting the day before yesterday. A number of the Fatah Central Committee members, including Salim al-Za'nun, also known as Abu-al-Adib; 'Abbas Zaki; and Muhammad Jihad, left Amman yesterday morning to attend the meetings.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y one hour before leaving Amman for the Tunisian capital, Salim al-Za'nun—one of the founders of Fatah in 1964 and acting speaker of the Palestine National Council—said: What has been achieved on the political level and the [Palestinian-Israeli] talks will top the agenda of this meeting, especially following the issuance of the recent Security Council resolution.

Al-Za'nun said: There will be no going back on the Palestinian participation in the coming Arab-Israeli talks, and the Palestinian leadership has recently made a decision to participate in the talks. He added: We should not be over optimistic. Israel is trying to absorb the anger following the blatant Hebron massacre; however, the Israelis will return to their old methods. Therefore, it is necessary to hold a quadripartite meeting comprising Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon as soon as possible to unify the stand of the countries involved in the Arab-Israeli talks.

Al-Za'nun described U.S. reservation about the issue of Jerusalem in the last Security Council resolution as a blow to the Oslo accord. He added: I consider the U.S. reservation about the paragraph related to Jerusalem and the occupied territory a retreat on the part of Washington from its previous stand vis-a-vis these two issues. This negativeness weakens the Security Council resolution.

Al-Za'nun said: It is true that Security Council Resolution 904 on the massacre of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron is positive with regard to the condemnation of the massacre, but there is negativeness in it. The resolution exposed the U.S. stand which has delayed the issuance of the resolution all this time.

Salim al-Za'nun said: The U.S. reservation on the issue of Jerusalem together with the statements made by Rabin and the U.S. representative at the United Nations—that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and that it is not a subject to discussion—is a serious matter. This is considered a blow to the Oslo accord which placed the issue of Jerusalem on the agenda even if after two years.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Za'nun said: Jerusalem is of special importance to the Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, an Arab and Islamic move is needed to discuss this issue as an integral part of the Arab territory occupied in 1967.

Ghawshah Comments on Executive Committee Meeting

NC2103172594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT
21 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 21 Mar (MENA)—Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has told a MENA correspondent in Tunisia that the PLO cannot agree to resume negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles until practical measures are taken to provide international protection to the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories and until the issue of settlements is satisfactorily addressed.

Ghawshah pointed out that the PLO Executive Committee met under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat last night. The committee discussed the practical measures needed to implement UN Security Council 904 on the massacre at al-Ibrahimi Mosque. The resolution, Ghawshah noted, calls for international protection for the Palestinian people.

Ghawshah added that the committee also reviewed the outcome of 'Arafat's meeting yesterday with an Israeli delegation under Amnon Shahaq. The Israeli delegation brought no new proposals concerning the practical measures needed to implement the UN Security Council resolution, despite the fact that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told 'Arafat in a telephone conversation two days ago that the delegation would convey such proposals.

Sha'th Reaffirms Stance on Jerusalem

NC2003094194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT
20 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo this morning for Tunis.

In a departure statement, Sha'th said that at a time when the Hebron massacre brought to the fore the issue of settlements, the United States and Israel raised the issue of Jerusalem.

Sha'th added: Jerusalem will remain the capital of Palestine and its future independent state and a capital to all Muslim and Christian people in the world. Israel's claims in this regard are completely rejected. Jerusalem

is an occupied city that is subject to all the Geneva conventions and will remain so until the occupation ends.

'Urayqat Assesses Current Status of Peace Process

TA1803171494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Mar 94 p 11

[Article by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: "Is This the End?"]

[Excerpts] Following the failure of Palestinian-U.S. talks and the success of Israeli-U.S. talks it has become obvious to everyone that the U.S. Administration is continuing to pressure the Palestinian side in particular, and the Arab parties in general, in a bid to renew the talks as if nothing has happened. [passage omitted]

It has been proven to the world that the concept of security for the Palestinians in the occupied territories must be the basis of negotiations if they are to succeed. It has also been proven that settlements are time bombs and a source of threat to any future peace agreement. Hence, the call to dismantle the settlements and place the entire settlement issue on the talks' agenda.

We say that it has been proven to the world that these facts are known not only to the Palestinians but to anyone who has even a superficial knowledge of the situation on the ground. After this convincing evidence to the world and the U.S. Administration's continued behavior as if nothing has happened, the outcome is that the peace process cannot continue in its present form.

If the PLO insists that the peace process in its present form has reached a dead end, and if Israel and the United States insist on continuing the peace process, the logical conclusion is that the peace process has practically ended.

Israel and the United States are trying to seek ways out, but plainly solutions are needed. What would have happened if the PLO had an armed security presence in Gaza and Jericho when the Hebron massacre occurred?

The thought of this or other scenarios, such as whether the Palestinian security forces would have participated in the protests, tried to control the protests, or refrained from doing anything, can lead to destructive results. Settlements are not only a huge obstacle to peace, but easily detonated land mines planted between every inch of the same land on which peace must prevail.

If the present situation continues, the end of the peace process will have immense and grave repercussions not only among Palestinians but also in the region as a whole. And if the United States keeps exerting direct and indirect pressure on the Palestinian leadership in a bid to renew the talks for the sake of talks, the results of this pressure will have destructive effects on the peace process.

The statement by President 'Arafat to NEWSWEEK to the effect that the Palestinian people will not accept to continue the talks in the form that existed before the massacre is best proof that the crisis has gone beyond the stage of pressure. It is inconceivable for anyone to expect the Palestinian leadership to lose the support and backing of its people and also lose the chance of making a genuine peace. The U.S. and Israeli leaderships must examine for the fourth, fifth, and tenth time the Palestinian demands presented to them on Friday morning, 25 February 1994.

Territories' Personalities React to UN Resolution

TA2103165094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Mar 94 pp 5, 19

[By AL-QUDS correspondents]

[Excerpt] The occupied territories—UN Security Council Resolution 904, which condemned the massacre at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, has elicited a wave of reaction in the occupied territories.

At a news conference yesterday in Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, said: The resolution is in the right direction although it came late. It is also insufficient. He added: During this period we were not endeavoring for resolutions or promises. What we need are measures on the ground not resolutions on paper, which might or might not be implemented. To date, we have not seen any measures will convince us to resume the talks.

Al-Husayni said: We view with extreme gravity the U.S. abstention on Jerusalem. He hoped that this had been caused by reasons of procedure rather than substance, that the U.S. stance on the issue of Jerusalem will remain firm, and that a suitable opportunity will arise for the United States to modify its position.

In answer to a question about Palestinian terms for resuming the talks after the Security Council resolution, al-Husayni stressed that implementation of measures on the ground leading to the protection of the Palestinian people; measures against the settlements, especially those situated in the midst of the Palestinian populations such as in Hebron; and other measures relating to the future of settlements will help to speed up the resumption of talks.

Attorney Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian delegation, said that if the Security Council resolution is implemented, it will definitely open the way to the resumption of talks.

Reacting to the resolution, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that it does not meet the requirements of the Palestinian position. The insistence of the United States in excluding East Jerusalem from the resolution's text and its reservation in interpreting "the occupied territories," under the pretext that this concerns an issue of

sovereignty, are unacceptable excuses that do not conform with an objective viewpoint and logic and harm the peace process. 'Abd-al- Shafi added: I do not believe that this resolution will advance the peace process, rather the contrary, it will place obstacles to that process.

About his opinion on returning to the negotiating table, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: In fact, I have to repeat my constant statement, namely, that the peace process will not succeed nor will it achieve the necessary credibility unless settlement activity in all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, is halted.

Dr Zakariya al-Agha said that this resolution is weak and has no value. It is weaker than previous resolutions and lacks any mechanism for imlementing any of its clauses. The regrettable thing is that the United States expressed reservations on the most important clause, namely, not considering Jerusalem part of the occupied Palestinian territories. Al-Agha added: This is a very grave sign indicating that the United States supports the Israeli viewpoint, which regards Jerusalem as part of Israeli territory. In the future, the Palestinian leadership should take this grave and important matter into account.

Al-Agha added: During all this time the United States delayed the passage of this resolution and linked it to the PLO's agreement to resume the talks. This indicates and exposes the U.S. blackmail.

Al-Agha stressed his rejection of this resolution, and said: I am not the only one who rejects this resolution. I believe that all our people reject it also. We, in the occupied territories, ask the Palestinian leadership in Tunis to study the new situation well, because new things have become obvious following the Hebron massacre. The PLO and the Palestinian people have put forward conditions and legitimate demands for returning to the negotiating table, especially real protection, not just an international presence as stipulated by the resolution.

Al-Agha emphasized that the issue of settlement activity and settlements must be placed at the top of the agenda of the negotiating process. He said that any delay in this matter will be perilous. [passage omitted]

Financial Posts in Self-Rule Authority Advertised

JN2203094494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 94 p 3

["By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter"]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Council for Economic Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) is processing applications from experts in taxes, customs and financial administration and plans to conduct personal interviews late this month and early next month.

Jawad Naji, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Economic Department in Amman, said there was a good response to advertisements in the past two months inviting applications from qualified candidates in the Arab World and elsewhere.

More than 95 per cent of all applicants are Palestinians and the rest were both Arabs and non-Arabs, Dr. Naji said, adding that the priority of the council was to select heads of departments who will then be given leeway to set up the departments and recruit their support staff.

The 13-member PECDAR was established in late 1993 as PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as its head and Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the Political Department of the PLO, and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the Economic Department of the PLO, as his two deputies.

Other members of the council are: Ahmad Quray' (director-general), Hasan Abu-Libdah and Sari Nusaybah (deputy directors-general), Sufyan al-Sultan, Ibrahim Dikkah, Nabil Qassis, Muhammad Samhuri, Khalil al-Hindi, Yusuf Sayigh, Antoine Zahlan and Nabil al-Sharif.

The council is entrusted with devising a structure for economic development and administration for the occupied territories during the five-year Palestinian autonomy period envisaged in the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord.

It will also draw up plans for development projects in the occupied territories and act as a conduit for international assistance to support Palestinian self-rule as envisaged in the autonomy accord.

Dr. Naji rejected suggestions that pressure from donors, who have pledged $2 billion in aid to the Palestinians, had prompted the council to look for talent outside the PLO. Reports have suggested that the donors were insisting that the council be administered by qualified economic experts rather than political appointees.

He said the council had established a good rapport will the World Bank, which is coordinating the international effort to financially support Palestinian self-rule and develop the Palestinian economy.

The interviews that the council plans to conduct in Tunis, Jerusalem and elsewhere this month and next month will be with applicants for the posts of directors of treasury, budget, financial administration, internal audit, tax and customs as well as computer experts.

"We have to have a stream-lined state economy with no less responsibilities and functions than those of a full government," said Dr. Naji. "As such, every aspect of a national economy has to be addressed."

The council expects that it needs $400 million for running costs during the first year of Palestinian autonomy. A meeting of a steering committee supervising aid for Palestinians decided in January to allocate up to $160 million to help start autonomy.

"That is their estimate, but we believe that the $400 million figure reflects more accurately our actual needs," said Dr. Naji.

He said contacts were continuing between the council and the steering committee. The panel is meeting in Paris this week to review the progress of self-rule arrangements and review allocation of funds for specific projects.

Some of the donors have already allocated part of their pledges to various U.N. agencies already working in the occupied territories.

Hamas Activist: Resumption of Talks 'Capitulation'

TA2003080394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Criticism is being voiced in the territories over the PLO's decision to conduct negotiations with Israeli representatives in Tunis. The Palestinian opponents of the peace process call the decision a capitulation on the part of the PLO. Statements by PLO activists in support of the process have barely been heard. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] Notables in the territories have criticized the resumption of the negotiations between the PLO and Israel. The Security Council resolution disappointed many people in the territories who hoped for greater UN support for the Palestinian cause in the wake of the Hebron massacre. Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, who is identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and returned to the territories following deportation to Lebanon, said that the current resumption of the talks signifies another PLO capitulation to Israel and will seriously undermine the scant level of support 'Arafat still enjoys in the territories.

[Al-Zahhar, in English] The people's reaction now very simply is that is a new giving up or renounce from the PLO for the benefit of Israel and at the expense of the Palestinian side. So I think this will cancel the rest of the popular support for 'Arafat in particular.

[Amir translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Palestinian notables from Hebron also criticized the decision to hold talks between Palestinian and Israeli officials in Tunis today while Hebron residents remain under curfew and a closure is still in force in the territories. Palestinians rioted in the territories over the weekend in protest against the closure, the Hebron massacre, and subsequent incidents. Palestinian sources reported that at least 45 people were injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 20 March carries a related report with recorded remarks by Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar in English. Commenting on the results of the peace talks between Israel and the PLO so far, Dr. al-Zahhar says: "This policy is actually practiced with the PLO and the end result was a big zero." Dr. al-Zahhar adds: "I think this failure is temporary because of the marked pressure created by the people as a result of the massacre in Hebron's al-Ibrahami mosque. Sooner or later, they are going to implement autonomy." When asked about the possibility of a mass terrorist attack by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the Hamas' military arm, Dr. al-Zahhar says: "Nobody can actually tell what is going to happen, because you know, this is a very secret organization. Nobody actually understands their attitude at this moment. They are a very secret organization and have no relation to the well-known people."]

Hamas Member Captured; 20 Mar Incidents Reported

TA2003172594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Security forces in Gaza have captured a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member on the wanted list. Subhi Abu-Khalil is suspected of having killed Palestinians who were believed to have cooperated with Israel.

In the village of 'Anabta in Samaria, a Palestinian was wounded when soldiers opened fire on stone-throwers. [passage omitted]

An Israeli was lightly wounded in the head when he was hit by a stone while he was driving on the Ben Shemen-Jerusalem road, near the village of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta.

The Tel Aviv Magistrates Court has sentenced Gaza resident Masrah Barbah to life in prison, after finding him guilty in the murder of Moshe Becker, a citrus grower from Rehovot, two months ago. Another suspect in the murder, Hani Abu-Sittah, denied the charges and is currently being tried.

Islamic Jihad Urges End to 'Competing Strikes'

TA2103172794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 1

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine issued a statement yesterday in which it called on all political, Islamic, and national factions to stop competing strikes, which have surpassed the limits of logic and wisdom.

The movement said: We appeal to all factions to ease rather than make the masses burdens heavier by sudden strikes, which are called upon the martyrdom of young men from all factions.

Clinton's View of Jerusalem Issue Examined

TA1603195794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Mar 94 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "U.S. Falsehood—Right"]

[Text] We can only wish a long life to U.S. President Clinton, because by the grace of God he is more aware and conscious of the Palestinian problem, especially the issue of Jerusalem, than any of his predecessors. In as much as he is familiar with the issue of Jerusalem, he could find no better opportunity to affirm that a unified Jerusalem was Israel's capital other than in these delicate circumstances through which the talks are passing. Since 1967, on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions, the U.S. position has continued to reject the annexation of the Arab part of Jerusalem to Israel. In his meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders, Clinton said that the United States refuses to refer to Arab Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. He did this in order to arouse the emotions of the Jews and gain their trust at a time when he finds himself involved in an investment bank scandal in his state, Arkansas, of which he was governor before winning the White House.

If the Oslo accord postponed discussion of the Jerusalem issue until the final settlement stages, Clinton's remarks dissipated hopes that the United States would remain committed to international legitimacy and implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to Jerusalem. Instead of adopting a position that renews the desire by the Palestinians to return to the talks and implement the Oslo accord, Clinton, "with his wisdom" and long experience in foreign affairs, saw fit to pour salt on the wound by raising the Jerusalem issue at this time and place. The United States, instead of adopting the position of a neutral partner and attempting to build confidence between the Palestinians and the Israelis following the damage created by the Hebron massacre, has now adopted a pro-Israeli position that retreats from previous U.S. positions on Jerusalem.

What is a cause for ridicule is the contradiction in President Clinton's stance. In the blessed night of the Koran's revelation he addressed the Muslims and tried to display feelings of friendship toward them. A few days later came Clinton's position, hostile to Islam and the Muslims, who consider Jerusalem to be the first Qiblah and the third holiest site. On one hand he congratulates the Islamic nation on the great night of the Koran's revelation, and on the other he defies the feelings of this nation by insisting on a position biased toward Israel with respect to the issue of Jerusalem, as if he is not aware of the extent of this nation's link to Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque and of the fact that more than one billion world Muslims reject Arab Jerusalem remaining under Israeli control. Moreover, a just and comprehensive settlement in the region cannot be reached without finding a solution to this sensitive issue that satisfies the three religions of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

Although we are grateful to President Clinton for congratulating us on the night of the Koran's revelation and the blessed 'Id al- Fitr, his second message which he sent through the American Jewish leaders, whom he met two days ago, is more impressive and bitter. That requires the Islamic nation to resist and confront this message because it represents a challenge to the Islamic and Arab nations, regardless of whether this was an intentional act or a failure to realize the danger of this U.S. position on relations between our Islamic and Arab worlds and his Western world as well as the fact that this position could lead to derailing the talks and the entire peace process. This pro-Israeli and biased U.S. stance on Jerusalem increases Israeli intransigence on the issue of Jerusalem, on Israel's plans to reduce the Arab presence in the city and Judaize the remainder of the holy city, and diminishes the chances of a peace whose crux is Jerusalem.

We say to President Clinton and the U.S. Administration that this U.S. position increases the Palestinian people's persistence to continue the political struggle until they achieve their freedom and regain their rights.

This U.S. position will help to unite the Palestinian ranks and to search for common denominators among the various groups and factions. We add: If this was the U.S. response to the Hebron massacre, in which the Palestinians were the victims, how will the U.S. response be if the Israelis are the victims? What a calamity it is when the United States turns falsehood into truth.

U.S. Stance on Jerusalem, Settlement Activity Linked

TA2103172094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 11

[Editorial: "The U.S. Position on Jerusalem"]

[Text] The thing that arouses concern about the UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre is not the resolution itself, but the foot-dragging that sought to empty it of any meaning or practical use. All this, however, is needless repetition and self-evident truth known by everyone.

Even graver than this is what news agencies reported about the U.S. abstention on one of the resolution's clauses. That clause considers Jerusalem to be part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the same international resolutions and negotiating points of reference applying to those territories also apply to Jerusalem.

It is common knowledge that after the massacre at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque, U.S. pressure continued on the Palestinian leadership in a bid to empty the resoution of content. Washington linked its approval of the resolution to the Palestinians' resumption of negotiations with Israel. In other words, the United States adopted the Israeli stance. The Palestinian leadership's refusal to deal with the U.S. position delayed voting on the draft resolution for three weeks.

This U.S. stance, biased in favor of Israel, encouraged it to continue its settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in the Jerusalem area, where various Israeli ministries are making plans to build more settlements and settlement neighborhoods in a bid to impose a new fait accompli.

All Arab and Islamic parties concerned with the future of the occupied Palestinian territories, foremost of all Jerusalem, must realize these facts and act to confront designs and plans aimed at the Arab presence in the holy city. Inalienable Palestinian rights include all the occupied territories, which begin from Jerusalem and end in Jerusalem.

'International Intervention' Needed To Save Talks

TA1803172894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 18 Mar 94 p 4

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton did not have anything encouraging to say to the Palestinians in their joint press conference at the White House March 16. Both leaders simply urged the PLO to resume peace talks without making any reference to the security needs of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

What brought the peace process to a halt was the simple fact that the two million unarmed and unprotected Palestinian civilians in the territories are prey to the whims of Israeli terrorists. The statement of the Israeli border guard commander in front of the Israeli Commission of Inquiry that soldiers have clear orders not to open fire at Jewish settlers even if the latter were in the act of shooting at unarmed Palestinian civilians underscores the danger facing the Palestinian population and Israel's reluctance to deal with it.

This revelation did not come as a surprise to the Palestinians, who knew it existed long before the border guard commander announced it publicly. They have had enough experience with settlers opening fire at them without the soldiers or government doing anything about it.

The Israeli government's reluctance to deal with settlers shooting at Palestinians, as well as the light sentences given to Israelis for killing Palestinians without reason, is what encourages Israeli terrorists to continue with their murderous acts. They know that in the end they will be treated like heroes among their people and may even become members of the Israeli parliament or even ministers in the government. They do not have to worry about the consequences of their acts on their families, property and compatriots like Palestinians do.

If it was a Palestinian who killed an Israeli, then his home would be demolished and his family dislodged; his village and maybe the whole town would be placed under curfew for days and weeks and harassed on a daily basis by the army and settlers; several hundred Palestinians would be rounded up and sent either to prison or exiled; and the person who committed the act would get a life sentence plus many more years for every death or injury he brought about.

Israeli justice is far from being just. It assumes the Israeli idea of right or wrong. For this reason Palestinians demand international intervention, and rightly so, for their sake and for the sake of the peace process on the whole.

Algeria

Paper Says President To Seek Dialogue With FIS

PM2103145994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Zeroual To Begin Dialogue With Salvation Front Next Week"]

[Text] Paris—An Algerian presidential office statement issued yesterday said that President Zeroual would start a serious and sincere dialogue next week without excluding any party, the aim being to end Algeria's crisis and ensure a return to elections. It said that dialogue was the preferred way of bringing the situation under control. The presidential statement also reaffirmed the need for the security forces to continue their duties of maintaining public security, safeguarding public property, and eradicating violence and terrorism.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from reliable sources that President Zeroual will initiate a dialogue with the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders now in prison, Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj to be specific. These leaders were moved from Blida prison the day before yesterday to an unknown place. There have been numerous rumors over the past few weeks about the transfer of the FIS leaders to a villa somewhere, but the report seems to be genuine this time. The sources, who have recently been in contact with President Zeroual, quoted him as stressing that he assumed the post of president in order to hold a genuine dialogue and that he intended to do so.

President Zeroual's statement came after the spectacular Lambese jailbreak and after the lengthy meetings of the military commands.

President Zeroual appears to have been able to settle the controversy and disagreement in his favor after the recent attacks by the hard-line anti-dialogue tendency as reflected in the speech delivered by Prime Minister Redha Malek at the funeral of playwright Alloula in Oran and in the campaigns of the French-language papers criticizing the regime and its failure in an attempt to obstruct President Zeroual, forced him into a corner, and put him on the defensive.

Behind that campaign were the forces which maintain that the fundamentalists should be stamped out and the hardline security option, not the dialogue option, upheld.

Political observers believe that the death sentences handed down to six fundamentalists yesterday were part of the attempts to embarrass President Zeroual and part of the arm-twisting tactics the hard-liners are trying to use.

In view of that situation, President Zeroual is expect to reshuffle the cabinet.

'Warnings' About 'Possible Split' in Military Noted

PM2103141494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Fears of Split in Army After Zeroual Announcement of Willingness To Hold Dialogue With Salvation Front"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—Algerian circles yesterday received with utmost interest the warnings about a possible split in the Army if the disagreement inside the regime between those who support a dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and those who are opposed to it. It is the first time the possibility of a split in the Army has emerged since President Major General Liamine Zeroual assumed power 31 January. However, well-informed sources have pointed out to AL-HAYAH that the talk of a split in the Army is exaggerated in view of the staunch relationship between the new president and senior officers and the mutual trust between them. The sources pointed out that, if there are criticisms against Zeroual in the Army, they are focused on the way his aides are chosen, as most of them lack experience.

Algerian sources have stressed that President Zeroual is determined to initiate a "serious dialogue" with all influential parties on the Algerian scene, "without excluding anyone," even the FIS, which the authorities disbanded after the abolition of the legislative election results in January 1992. After that the FIS resorted to underground action, launching a war against state organs.

Numerous parties are opposed to the dialogue with the FIS. In the executive authority there are Prime Minister Redha Malek and Interior Minister Selim Saadi. Proponents of this—including politicians, thinkers, and media officials—say that a dialogue with the FIS would weaken the prestige of the state, which should not submit to pressure from the supporters and perpetrators of violence. While the opposition of a major tendency inside the military establishment to the dialogue with the FIS proceeds from the fear that if the FIS came to power this would mean a purge campaign or trials aimed against a number of senior officers, the other tendencies' opposition proceeds from the conviction that, if the FIS came to power democratically, it would not relinquish it democratically.

The disagreement between those supporting dialogue and those opposed to it has remained concealed within the regime over the past two years. The tendency opposed to the dialogue remained on the winning side until Maj. Gen. Liamine Zeroual assumed the presidency. But this change in the pyramid of power did not abolish the oppositionists, who are still inside the military command and at the head of government.

Some sources say that parties linked to those opposed to the dialogue are behind many of the acts of violence and revenge witnessed in the country recently, as these parties killed members of the armed Islamic groups or some

of their relatives to avenge the murder operations aimed against elements in the security services. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak, Bosnian, Croatian Leaders Meet

NC2203070494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 mar (MENA)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman have thanked President Husni Mubarak for his honest efforts, which contributed to reaching the Washington agreement to establish a federation between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims. In a statement to AL-AHRAM to be published on Tuesday, Izetbegovic stressed that the Arab and Islamic countries played a major role in the Washington negotiations through calls for a fair Bosnian solution. He expressed his hope that strong political and economic ties will be established between his country and Egypt.

Croatian President Tudjman made a statement to AL-AHRAM in which he welcomed the decision by most Arab countries to establish diplomatic ties with Croatia. He noted that as Egypt is a major country, Croatia will establish strong political, economic, and cultural ties with it.

The Bosnian president said the Washington agreement between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims is positive and fulfills the most important aspirations concerning maintaining Bosnia's unity.

The Croatian president said the Washington agreement will end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and described it as the path toward fair peace in the country.

Izetbegovic and Tudjman praised the U.S. efforts and the efforts of Western countries, primarily Germany, France, and Austria, and the Arab and Islamic countries to reach the federation agreement. They said they welcome the Serbs joining the agreement, providing they accept the unity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Izetbegovic said the return of the Bosnian areas occupied by the Serbs is a condition for any cooperation with them. Tudjman stressed that the return of Croatian territory occupied by the Serbs for three years is a fair demand.

On Bosnia's new constitution signed in Vienna, Izetbegovic said that it preserves the national identity of the Muslim Bosnians and Catholic Croats by establishing cantons based on distinctive national characteristics. He said the new constitution that will be ratified by the Bosnian Parliament will guarantee the presence of a strong central authority and broad powers for the cantons to address issues relating to purely national interests.

The Croatian president stressed that the new constitution guarantees complete equality between the Muslim and Croatian peoples in Bosnia. Izetbegovic noted that the federation between the Republics of Bosnia and Croatia will achieve two practical gains for both parties: Bosnia will obtain the port of Ploce on the Adriatic in return for Croatia obtaining an unrestricted transit route through Bosnia.

Party Leader, Colleagues Referred to Criminal Court

NC1903190994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Prosecutor General Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi today decided to refer Labor Party Leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri; Majdi Ahmad Husayn, chief editor of the party's mouthpiece AL-SHA'B; and Muhammad Zaghlul and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abbas, journalists working in the paper, to the criminal court on the charge of slandering and libeling People's Assembly Deputy Thurayya Labanah.

The prosecution statement said that in handling the issue of the Madinat Nasr billionaire, the defendants published in issues No. 809 and 810 of the paper stories in which they accused Mrs. Labanah of helping some law breakers in return for obtaining apartments.

Security Sweeps Launched To Arrest Terrorists

NC2203062594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Intensive security campaigns have been launched in various parts of Cairo to arrest fugitive terrorists and outlaws. Regular units from the police force, central security, the state security intelligence, Cairo intelligence department, public security, and the traffic department took part in these campaigns which began early this morning. The forces that took part in these campaigns are continuing their tasks in the various slum areas in 'Ayn Shams, al-Basatin, certain areas in central Cairo, and the suburbs. These campaigns are scheduled to extend to the areas east, west, north, and south of Cairo and will continue for several days.

Libya

Constitutional Union Issues Statement on New Group

PM2103142694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Constitutional Union"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has received a statement from Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ghalbun, leader of the Libyan Constitutional Union, commenting on recent developments in the Libyan opposition, dwelling specifically on the breaking away of a group from the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (the main opposition faction) and the subsequent

establishment of the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform. Bin-Ghalbun said: "Since that group broke away there have been voices calling for prudence and trying to dissuade this group from its plan under the pretext of unity, claiming that splits weaken the unity of ranks and serve the interests of the regime only. But that is untrue, because the split is prompted by the care for national interests and aimed at correcting and strengthening the moderate national line." He expressed his hope that "the new organization will become one of the active and strong Libyan organizations. I know some of the men responsible for its establishment, management, and guidance. They are capable of shouldering the responsibility and are experienced and knowledgeable and their national commitment and sincerity are above all suspicion." [passage omitted]

National Organization Hails New Opposition Movement

PM2203115494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan National Organization Welcomes 'Movement for Change and Reform'"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Bashir al-Rabiti, leader of the Libyan National Organization, has welcomed the announcement by dissidents from the National Front for the Salvation of Libya of the establishment of a new organization called the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform.

He said that after thorough study of the new movement's founding statement, the Libyan National Organization has decided "it is necessary to support what is mentioned in it and bless the movement's steps." He wished "the movement and all honorable strugglers success."

Sudan

Government, Opposition Peace Talks To Begin

Government Official Comments

EA1903185694 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The official spokesman of the government peace delegation to Nairobi, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, has said that the current peace talks in Nairobi opened amid encouraging signs, since all the negotiating parties are represented by high-level delegations. He said the presence of John Garang and Riak Machar would give impetus to the negotiations.

Speaking during an interview with Kenyan television, Dr. al-Hajj said the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative was unique, since it included African countries adjacent to Sudan, whose problems were identical to Sudan's problems. He said the similarity would help in resolving the southern problem.

Meanwhile, in a telephone call from Nairobi, the official spokesman of the government peace delegation, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, said some negative developments had occurred during the 24 hours following the official inauguration of the peace talks. He said so-called opposition elements had sent representatives to Nairobi with the aim of aborting the peace talks. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj said the government delegation had warned the IGADD group about the aims of the opposition group. He said the Kenyan side had been notified that peace was not a priority for the opposition, whose main aim was to topple the government in Khartoum, using the southerners as tools to do so. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj said the elements who arrived in Nairobi were the same people who had attended the Washington Symposium and the London Forum under Baroness Cox.

He said the southern problem should not be mixed with the toppling of the government, and stated that the southern problem should come first. Dr. al-Hajj further urged all parties to give a chance to the IGADD countries to play their role, especially after the emergence of positive signs, with the rebel leaders attending the talks for the first time.

Opposition Actions Noted

EA2003173094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The peace negotiations between the government and the rebel movement will resume in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on 21 March, under the framework of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD].

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official spokesman for the government delegation to the peace negotiations, has revealed that some elements of the so-called national democratic alliance have arrived in Nairobi with the aim of aborting the IGADD initiative. During a press conference he held yesterday he said he had apprised the Kenyan authorities of this negative development, saying that the members of the alliance, who represent the opposition parties, aimed at bringing about the overthrow of the government and wanted to exploit the issue of the south to bring their ambitions to realization, while the issue of peace in Sudan was of no concern to them.

His excellency appealed to the Kenyan Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the current peace efforts did not fail and that the solution should be purely an African one. His excellency said that the members of the alliance who had arrived in Nairobi were Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad Sa'id and al-Harith Idris. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Hassan said the government delegation did not object to their presence provided they did so as part of the delegation of the rebel movement.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj said the entry of foreign quarters or of a foreign dimension had always been at the root of failure

to arrive at an agreement with the rebel movement. His excellency appealed to John Garang to throw off foreign hegemony. He said the purpose of his convening a press conference was to inform the outside world of the facts of what was happening and to confirm the eagerness of the government delegation that the negotiations should succeed.

Talks Previewed

EA2103195394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The official peace negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the rebels will open in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi at 1000 Kenyan time, 0900 Sudanese time, under the supervision of the committee of the leaders of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea in the presence of the foreign ministers of these states. Today's session will be held at the Kenyan Foreign Ministry, while subsequent sessions will be held at a different venue which has not yet been announced.

The delegation of the Sudanese Government will be headed by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, and also includes Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official spokesman for the government delegation; Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, Agnes Lokudu, Angelo Beda, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim, Mathiang Malwal, Musa Sid Ahmad, Peter Charliman, and 'Abd al-Raziq al-Fadl, as well as Sudan's ambassadors to Kenya, Addis Ababa, and Uganda.

For the rebels, the delegation of Garang's faction will be headed by Salva Kiir Mayar Dit, Yusuf Kuwah, Philip Lomoding, Stephen Wani, Justin Yaak, and others.

The delegation of the United Faction will be headed by (Richard Mola) and its members comprise (Dhol Ashwal), Arok Thuon Arok, John Luk Jok, Dr. Peter Adhok, and others.

The radio correspondent in Nairobi says that the most positive indicators pointing to the success of these negotiations is the presence of the leaders of the two rebel factions, Garang and Machar, at the opening session. This has never happened before at any of the earlier rounds of talks. Their presence indicates confidence in the negotiations. Moreover, Kenya's President Moi, in his speech to the opening session, stressed the need for these negotiations to succeed so that Africa could demonstrate to the whole world its capacity to solve its problems by itself.

The current negotiations will have as their starting point the point at which the two sides arrived at in the earlier rounds at Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abuja One and Two. It is worth noting that the Sudanese delegation led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah is fully mandated to sign the agreement to be reached.

IGADD Committee Issues Statement

EA2103200094 Nairobi KNA in English 1751 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Nairobi, 21 Mar (KNA)—The Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] committee of heads of state on the Sudan conflict consisting of its chairman, His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Meles Zenawi, president of the transitional government of Ethiopia and His Excellency Isayas Afewerki, president of the state of Eritrea, held its third session on 17 March, 1994.

The IGADD committee met with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the Republic of the Sudan and subsequently met the leaders of the two Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army factions, Dr. John Garang and Dr. Riak Machar, and conducted intensive consultations within itself and with the parties concerned and agreed to launch the IGADD peace talks on the Sudan.

The committee and the parties to the conflict agreed that pursuant to the mandate given by the meeting off the IGADD summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 6 and 7 September 1993, the negotiations shall take into consideration the previous efforts in search of a solution to the conflict, namely talks held in August 1989, Addis Ababa, December 1989 in Nairobi, May to June 1992 and April to May 1993 in Abuja and May 1993 in Nairobi.

The committee expressed serious concern at the continued human suffering, misery, famine and disease in the war-affected areas. It was agreed that the parties to the conflict shall allow access to relief agencies to ensure that the relief assistance is delivered to the suffering people in those areas.

The committee also expressed deep concern that the long drawn-out conflict was a threat to peace and security in the sub-region. In reference to their stated commitment to the IGADD peace initiative including their readiness to immediately embark on negotiations, the parties to the conflict agreed to send to the peace talks high-level delegations with a full mandate to negotiate. The committee called upon the parties concerned to the conflict to exercise restraint and desist from escalating hostilities, including actions that might jeopardise the IGADD initiative, in order to create a conducive atmosphere for the conduct of negotiations.

The IGADD committee decided that the standing committee of ministers of foreign affairs shall conduct the peace negotiations under the supervision of the chairman of the IGADD committee and directed the standing committee to start the negotiating process immediately.

The IGADD committee further appealed to the international community to continue supporting the initiative. [passage omitted]

'Mutual' Talks Session Held

EA2203115094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Nairobi, 22 Mar (SUNA)—The first mutual talks session between the Sudanese Government delegation and the two delegations of rebel movement began here Tuesday [22 March] at the Kenyan Foreign Ministry under the sponsorship of Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) committee. Representative of Kenyan Foreign Ministry said that the meetings would be closed.

SUNA learned that every delegation will participate with six members in addition to the mediation team which including the four states' foreign ministers of IGADD. [sentence as received] It is to be noted that there is a direction to discuss the relief transportation to the war affected areas as urgent issue before start of discussing of the agenda.

Tunisia

President Addresses Nation After Re-Election

LD2103222394 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1917 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Address to the nation by President Ben Ali; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. We are celebrating these days the anniversary of the independence and the youth day in faithfulness to our martyrs and fighters. The two days are symbols of the impregnability of the country, and we celebrate them out of our renewed determination to continue upholding the country's values and to face up to the challenges, thanks to the will of its sons and daughters.

The importance of these celebrations has been increased by the presidential and legislative elections, which embodied in a very good way the maturity characterizing the Tunisian people and the country's worthiness of a developed democratic life.

Citizens, men, and women, you have cast your vote after reflection and out of conviction, and you have expressed your choice out of your pure will within the framework of transparence and clarity. You expressed your choice with the full respect of the rule of law and the commitment to civilized behavior, which I had called for since the beginning of the election campaign on the basis of the principles and values upon which the new year was erected.

It is my pleasure on this occasion to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the voters, men, and women from all social groups, ages, and regions, who voted for me here and abroad. I also express my gratitude to all those who volunteered to support the presidential election campaign, including the national organizations, the media, and all the bodies, groups, and individuals, and I fully value their loyalty.

I renew my determination and pledge to fully shoulder the responsibility as much as I can to continue with all the Tunisians, men, and women the completion of the marvelous national project we started building step by step on 7 November 1987 and whose edifice is getting bigger day after day thanks to your positive response and contribution. You have renewed your pledge to continue raising this edifice higher and higher by voting for it spontaneously and in big numbers.

I take this occasion to congratulate the winners in the legislative elections from all the national political parties that expressed their support for the national civilized project and contributed to the materialization of pluralism in the House of Deputies for the first time in Tunisia's modern history.

Citizens: Now that the results of these elections have become clear, the national duty and Tunisia's right on us demand that we put its interest above any consideration. It requires us all to get to work again and pursue the efforts within the state of law, institutions, human rights, and the framework of a consolidated and balanced society to face up to present and future challenges. We must take our country in all sectors to the level of advanced and developed countries, endeavoring together for its lasting glory and esteem. May God give us success and may His peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you.

Kuwait

Government Claims $14.3 Billion in Compensation From Iraq

LD2103211794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1949 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Geneva, 21 Mar—Kuwait presented to the United Nations compensation committee claims totalling until now 14.3 billion dollars in compensation for the losses resulting from the Iraqi aggression. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Paper Reports Media 'Distortion' of Clinton Remarks

JN2103211394 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Mar 94 p 26

[Huda Tawfiq Reprt from Washington]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has voiced his discomfort over the media's distortion of his stand on Jerusalem, which some sides interpreted as an approval of Israel's position that unified Jerusalem is Israel's capital.

A U.S. State Department official told AL-ITTIHAD that the United States regrets such a distortion of President Clinton's position and stresses that the U.S. position on Jerusalem has not changed and that Clinton had announced that the status of Jerusalem would be decided during negotiations in accordance with the contents of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Salih: YSP Imposed 'Undeclared Separation'

PM2203112894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Khayrallah Khayrallah "yesterday"; place not given]

[Text] [Khayrallah] You accuse Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders of deciding on separation. Who do you believe has taken this decision?

[Salih] Those who have decided on separation are known. They are the elements of apostasy and separation in the YSP. It is they who fabricated the crisis, escalated its regrettable complications, and took numerous separatist measures, including the circumvention of the results of the 27 April 1993 elections, the mobilization of citizens in southern and eastern governorates against unity, the rebellion against constitutional legitimacy and nonrecognition of constitutional institutions, mobilization of military units and their withdrawal from the political borders of the Republic of Yemen to the former partition border areas, and the fomenting of sedition and stirring up of sectarian, territorial, and tribal tendencies with a view to fomenting a sedition in society and pushing the Yemeni people into the furnaces of infighting.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe that separation is a reality?

[Salih] Regrettably the forces of apostasy and separation in the YSP have through their partitionist practices imposed the reality of undeclared separation in some southern and eastern governorates. It is obviously a reality which the Yemenis will never recognize. They will resist it with all their strength to safeguard unity. The sons of our people, especially in the southern and eastern governorates, have suffered a great deal from the calamities of partition. They vigorously refuse to return the Yemeni homeland to the situation that existed before the 22 May 1990. Because they understand the meaning of the return of the totalitarian regime's domination of people's life. Unity rescued them from a horrific nightmare and is an umbrella of security for the Yemeni people. Our people will not allow anyone or any party to claim guardianship over them and their unity.

The Yemeni people will defend and safeguard unity, whatever the price and the sacrifices. Separatists will gain nothing, nor will they achieve their narrow and selfish aims. The Yemeni people are now grown up. The sons of our Yemeni people in what used to be known as the south of the homeland moved out of the horrific prison and the iron fence imposed on them by the YSP over 25 years of totalitarian rule. No one in Yemen will ever accept a return to that prison at all.

[Khayrallah] What is the fate of the Pledge and Accord Document?

[Salih] The Pledge and Accord Document signed in Amman on 10 Ramadan [20 February] is binding on everyone, ends the crisis, and imposes implementation. The Yemeni people will not accept its circumvention by any party.

The YSP leadership was supposed to return to Sanaa after the signing to merge the constitutional and executive institutions and form a coalition government headed by Haydar al-'Attas from the General People's Congress, the YSP, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, in order to carry out its duties and put the document into practice. But regrettably, some separatist forces in the YSP are seeking to circumvent the document because it affects their narrow interests.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe that some people are financing the separation?

[Salih] It is difficult to answer that question, for numerous reasons. However, it can be answered by another question: Where does the YSP get all that money to spend on purchasing and stockpiling arms in the former partition areas? How does it finance the armed militias and spending on the new military formations it is setting up outside the constitutional institutions?

Where do some of these separatist elements get the huge amount of cash from which they spend generously on buying people's consciences, kindling conflicts in society, and financing subversive operations in the homeland, especially in the northern governorates, to disrupt the security of the companies operating in the oilfield and kidnap foreigners to give the impression that there is no stability in northern governorates. We have sufficient evidence to prove that. Of course the YSP does not get these huge sums of money from the state treasury, so where does it get the money? Anyhow, our people know very well the sources of the YSP's finances. They are clear and exposed.

[Khayrallah] In your view, what are the real causes of the crisis?

[Salih] In brief: First, the crisis actually began on 12 Dhu al-Hijjah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 24 June 1991.

Second, there is the YSP leaders' nonrecognition of the results of the 27 April elections and the attempt to get around them by fabricating and escalating the crisis.

THird, there is the YSP's acceptance of constitutional reforms and then rejection of them because of its secretary general's disapproval.

Fourth, there is the discovery of oil in some southern and eastern governorates, which whetted some people's appetites and ambitions. Some people thought that they could sacrifice the gigantic project represented in the united state for a dwarf project represented in a petty oil state that fulfills personal and selfish wishes.

This is why the crisis was fabricated without taking account of the potential harm to the interests of the homeland and the people amd the potential serious threats to the march of unity and democracy.

[Khayrallah] At the beginning you maintained that there was no crisis, so what has changed to make you talk about a crisis?

[Salih] Indeed at the beginning of the crisis we tried to play down and contain the effects of the crisis and see it as merely contradictions and differing views that could be resolved through dialogue and reason. At the beginning it was indeed minor and lay primarily in the brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid's seclusion after his return to Aden from a hospitalization trip abroad on 19 August 1993. We had though that through dialogue, understanding, and mediation we would be able to persuade him to return to Sanaa to carry out his duties, as happened in the past. But it seems that what happened was deeper, more serious, and had been planned for some time to produce a crisis in the manner we are experiencing now and to push the country to the situation it is now in, in addition to the threats posed to unity and democracy in our country as a result.

Al-Bid Interviewed on Crisis, 'Terrorist Plan'

NC1903182894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Mar 94 p 6

[Report on interview with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid by Amin Muhammad Amin in Aden; date not given]

[Text] Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has warned that there is a plan being implemented against the Arab nation to spread terrorism and extremism, undermine the Arab and Islamic nation's aspirations, and isolate it from the world. In an interview with AL-AHRAM, he said that this terrorist plan has clear features and is targeted against Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, and other Arab states.

Al-Bid called for confronting this plan by discussing it on a pan-Arab level. He also called for confronting the backward mentalities which want to impose their will on the Arab and Islamic nation. He welcomed any Arab effort to help Yemen avoid the specter of civil war, continue the democratic and peaceful march of unity, and adhere to the pledge and accord document.

Al-Bid renewed his call to President Mubarak and to eldest sister Egypt to play an influential role in the Yemeni arena, given Egypt's relations with Yemen and its past sacrifices for Yemen's sake. Egypt must play a pan-Arab role because there can be no strong Arab nation without it. This is what he proposed to President Mubarak during their recent contacts. He said: Our recent meeting with him was greatly reassuring because it showed that Egypt pays great attention to Yemen's problems.

Al-Bid said: We cannot allow Yemen to be a way station for exporting terrorism to Egypt because this hurts us and runs counter to our loyalty to Egypt. It is illogical for us to offer terrorism instead of loyalty.

On the situation in Yemen, al-Bid said that despite events he is optimistic and will remain optimistic about realizing the grand design of Yemeni unity, which was always an excuse for fraternal warfare. In the 1972 and 1979 skirmishes, we used to stop after battles and call for unity. In 1989, we called for a united Yemeni state with a peaceful spirit, a democratic basis, and with the logic of the modern age. However, a short time after the march of unity began we faced some obstacles. The most important thing was not to resort to fighting, especially as violence is not the road to unity but a completely different road. The road to unity is peaceful and democratic and is based on convictions and goals. Unity must not be exposed to farces and vituperations.

He explained that with time it turned out that the proper conditions and the proper leadership to accommodate the aspirations for unity and achieve a common vision and goal were lacking in Yemen. Al-Bid said that the existence of disagreements between the two leaderships in Yemeni, the fact that this subject in all its political dimensions was not submitted for discussion, and the

fact that no attempt was made to pinpoint the mistakes and negative manifestations placed the unity plan in a predicament. This happened despite popular consensus on unity and determination by the various sincere sons of the Yemeni people to achieve it. Al-Bid said: During our short experience, we have discovered that a reactionary terrorist plan is being prepared against the Arab nation with a view to returning us to the Middle Ages and perhaps excluding us, as Arabs and Muslims, from the modern world. All the plots and sedition being concocted against the Arab nation are also directed at the Islamic nation. In Yemen we are suffering from this terrorist plan opposing unity. We discovered in time that there are several terrorist acts and assassinations aimed at jeopardizing the march of unity. Therefore, it was necessary to adopt a stand against terrorism and those who support it, to protect the Arab nation's unity and solidarity, and to find a logical formula to confront this plan.

The secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] said that the Gulf crisis was another factor that affected the unity of Yemen.

He wondered about the reasons for the success of some fundamentalist calls and terrorist acts. He said that this success is the result of the existence of basic unresolved problems in some societies. These terrorist elements exploit such situations. They also exploit the youths who are suffering from a moral void and the absence of a pan-Arab concept to cling to. He clarified that despite this, the fundamentalist formula advocating terrorism under the slogan of the true Islamic religion—which in fact has nothing to do with them—did not gather momentum by itself. The Afghan experiment does not apply in the Arab world.

He affirmed that the most important problem impeding a state of unity is the fact that a number of leaders have not quite assimilated this great pan-Arab development. This is why the document concentrates on establishing a unified state and its mechanism. Unfortunately, the search for a state that would subsume such competition and development in the various fields in these circumstances was unsuccessful during the transitional period. The situation then deteriorated into assassinations, explosions, and military confrontation instead of dialogue.

The Yemeni vice president then discussed the developments that took place after signing the Pledge and Accord Document in Aden [place as published]. He clarified that hours after the signing ceremony, clashes erupted between the Yemeni Army units, which was the first time this had happened on this scale and in this way. For the first time since unity, orders were issued to soldiers of the Yemeni Army to kill their own brothers in the Army. Despite this, I issued orders not to respond with violence in order to avoid the shedding of innocent Yemeni blood, because the victor in this kind of battle is the loser and such fighting would push Yemeni unity into a new dark tunnel. Fighting is not our method, because it kills unity.

This is why we adhere to the Pledge and Accord Document. But when we proposed the implementation of the first article in it, the reaction by the other side was to fight harder to silence us.

Al-Bid confirmed the need to try those accused of the recent assassinations in Yemen. He said: We all have to work hard to implement the agreement, which enjoys national consensus from the various groups of people.

At the same time, we need Arab efforts alongside the Yemeni efforts.

Al-Bid said that unfortunately we have encountered narrow-minded people who cannot think logically and try to take over the institutions. They were not up to the standard of the grand national project for unity.

Regarding the deadlock Yemeni unity is facing in implementing the Pledge and Accord Document as a result of the differences between the YSP, which is demanding that the defendants be arrested and the first article of the document be implemented, and the People's Congress, which is insisting on uniting the state institutions before anything else, 'Ali Salim al-Bid said that some people had believed that signing the document would end the crisis. This was wrong. The truth is that by signing the document we recognized that there was a crisis and established all the conditions for resolving it. The situation requires that we move toward implementation under the appropriate circumstances.

The document's seventh article calls for several security and constitutional guarantees that should have been annexed to the document. The prime minister, brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al- 'Attas, made a lot of efforts over the past month to persuade the brothers in Sanaa to offer or implement security guarantees, but his efforts bore no fruit. In Amman we submitted a YSP paper that explained our views on how to implement the agreement, beginning with gradual normalization and following up with clear steps and maintaining the earnest drive to implement the accord.

The vice president explained: Wanted suspects were not pursued, the country became involved in a crisis, and we had to leave Sanaa. There were officials in the state's institutions protecting well-known criminals. When we feel that some officials are linked to killings, how can we feel safe? I want to say this frankly: Some people are opposed to the document, and for this reason I hesitated before signing it as I did not want to be hasty. I was afraid that the signing of the document would inflame the security situation; and this actually happened.

Regarding fears of a possible military confrontation, the vice president said these fears are real and the Military Committee must get help from the Arab countries.

He added: We support the expansion of Arab participation, particularly by our Egyptian brothers, and cooperation in bringing the views closer. We are seeking to avoid a civil war and to pursue our democratic process. If we are dragged into a conflict, this will bring destruction to Yemen. We call for the supremacy of law and demand an investigation into the serious events that have occurred to determine who was at fault. Despite our efforts four brigades have been mobilized in al-Bayda' in the north against one brigade in the south.

We draw comfort from the fact that the citizens are opposed to infighting. Furthermore it is difficult for any one party to control Yemen by way of killings and terrorism. Sit-ins and civil disobedience have begun in various areas. This happened after my call to the citizens to abide by the document. I expect popular support for the democratic process to grow until we are able to build one state.

Civil disobedience is a legitimate action, particularly because some officials are exploiting the state to promote their own personal interests. They are pointing the state in the wrong direction. Hence our only possible course of action is to go to the people and encourage democratic struggle. What is important is not to let the guns speak.

Al-Bid affirmed that it was his awareness of the existence of sizable oil reserves in the south that made him hasten to promote unity with the north. He declared that this resource must belong to a united Yemen, adding: We did our utmost to promote unity. Our reward was assassinations and threats.

Al-Bid concluded his remarks to AL-AHRAM by saying: Some al-Jihad members are in Yemen. I regret that some people are dealing with these terrorists and encouraging them. Details will become known in due time. This cooperation with the terrorists does not serve our cause or honor it. The main terrorist camp is found in Sa'dah in the north. The terrorists also began to assemble in the south but we are able to pursue these terrorists pockets and expose them. However, we find it totally unacceptable that the terrorists should enjoy the support of some people in power and some Army units. When they are left without official support, it will be easy to besiege them and get rid of them.

'Aziz Says Meeting With UN Head 'Beneficial, Positive'

JN2103215694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz conferred with UN Secretary General Butrus Dr. Ghali in New York today.

Following the meeting that lasted for more than one hour, 'Aziz told journalists that his meeting with the secretary general was beneficial and positive. He added that he briefed the secretary general on Iraq's position in detail, and emphasized that the United Nations should fulfill its obligations toward Iraq because Iraq fulfilled its obligations toward the United nations.

'Aziz emphasized that the main subject is lifting the siege on Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, especially since Iraq fulfilled all its commitments as stipulated in this paragraph and in accordance with the text and spirit of Resolution 687.

The deputy prime minister explained that the Security Council should consider this in order to end the suffering of the Iraqi people. He said he briefed the secretary general on the full picture of Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations, especially the Special Commission and the international agencies operating in Iraq.

'Aziz added that Iraq's relations with the agencies are good, and the concerned authorities cooperate with these agencies, and this is evidence that Iraq is prepared to cooperate with the international organizations.

'Aziz said Iraq has furnished the evidence of its cooperation with the international community, in accordance with UN Charter and the international law, but some Security Council members still maintain their hostile position toward Iraq, and they should respect the Security Council resolutions and the international law and stop interfering in Iraq's affairs.

The deputy prime minister expressed hope that the international community and all Security Council members would study the situation well in order to lift the siege on Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz also conferred with (Francesco Paolo Voly), Italian ambassador to the United Nations at his residence in New York today. 'Aziz is scheduled to meet later with Detlef Graf, German ambassador to the United Nations, and (Jean Damasan Besiman), Rwanda's ambassador and Security Council member.

'Dramatic' Military Move Planned To Open Road to Turkey

PM2203121694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p1

[Report by Salih Qallab in Amman and unattributed report from London: "Baghdad Planning Military Operation To Open Road to Turkey"]

[Text] Amid conflicting reports and mounting speculation about the nature of the action Baghdad is likely to take in implementation of the threats made by senior Iraqi officials promising unspecified action in retaliation for the renewal of the economic sanctions against Iraq, diplomatic sources have revealed that it will be a semi-military step in the direction of the north and not the south.

The sources say that the Iraqis have for some time been considering taking a "dramatic" step to open the land road between the Iraqi border and the Turkish border, a major part of which is controlled by Kurdish gunmen. That road is of considerable strategic and economic importance to Iraq.

The sources revealed that the Iraqi Government had some time ago raised this matter with the Turkish Government and that Ankara was very enthusiastic about it on the following grounds:

1. Opening that road would lead to Turkish economic recovery and would mean that Turkey would be the only or almost the only state with access to the Iraqi markets. It is known that Turkey and some other states neighboring Iraq are paid for their exports to Iraqi markets in crude or refined oil for local consumption.

2. Joint Iraqi-Turkish control of that road and border areas in general would ease some of the military burdens resulting from the presence of elements of the Kurdish Workers Party of Turkey in that area.

The same sources speak of increasing Iraqi military activity in recent days on the northern front and in the direction of the road. They do not rule out a sudden and swift Iraqi military action to open the road as quickly as possible and present the Western alliance and the whole world with a fait accompli.

It is generally believed in this connection that Baghdad is convinced that the atmosphere at the UN Security Council following the positions taken by France, Russia, and China would preclude military action against Iraq, particularly if the action the latter threatened to take was only confined to reopening the land road with Turkey.

More than one concerned party believes it to be unlikely that Iraq would go beyond this limited "tactical" step, and they also believe that Baghdad is not about to take any military action in the direction of the south on the border with Kuwait and that the most it might do there is send a few hundred Iraqi peasants back to the land taken from them under the amended border demarcation and let them stay there as a form of open sit-in.

An Arab diplomat working in Baghdad, however, believes the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Government no longer have any will to fight and that President Saddam Husayn's mention of the possibility of "retaliation" if the embargo continued was misunderstood, did not imply any military threat, and was only a call on the Iraqis to be patient and to rely on the time factor.

Oil Minister Comments on Attending OPEC Geneva Meeting

JN2103202294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Iraq is to take part in the 12th meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Committee in charge of monitoring the world oil market, scheduled to be held in Geneva next Friday. Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad made this announcement to the Iraqi News Agency. He said that Iraq would participate in the meeting out of its concern for the interests of oil-exporting developing countries. He added that the OPEC Ministerial Committee in charge of monitoring the oil market would discuss the deteriorating situation in the world oil market, where the average price for OPEC crude oil recently dropped to $13, an extremely low level that has not been seen since the mid- eighties. He pointed out that the current price is $8 less than the minimum price that the OPEC approved in 1990.

The oil minister said that Iraq's absence for the past three and a half years, resulting from the unjust and illegitimate embargo, severely damaged the interests of oil-exporting developing countries in general. These resolutions, he said, excluded a very positive and influential force and an important balancing factor from the world oil market, pointing out that the drop in the current oil price on the world oil market and that deteriorating oil revenues of the OPEC member states are just two consequences of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

The oil minister also said that Iraq, which is still steadfast through its huge oil potential, its firm principled positions, its belief in the need to protect the interests of the oil-exporting developing countries, and its compliance with the principles of OPEC, was and will continue to be an influential force in the oil market and is looking forward to playing its full role positively and efficiently after the removal of the nightmare of the unjust blockade, which is being imposed by the forces that are dissatisfied by Iraq's brave positions and its confrontation of their monopolies.

He added that Iraq has drawn the attention of all parties concerned in OPEC to the dangers of the deteriorating oil price that will harm the producers because it will reduce crude oil production and oil revenues. The consumer, he said, would also sustain losses because of the possibility of a halt to its oil revenues and of an imbalance in the oil market. He then explained the sound Iraqi position, and said that the oil-importing countries have begun to pursue certain polices to raise oil prices for the ultimate consumer by imposing huge taxes on consumption and using various pretexts to justify these polices, including ways to protect the environment, limit the rising global temperature, and impose energy and carbon taxes.

As a result, he added, oil has become a commodity and a suitable tool to collect taxes and revenues for the treasuries of consumer countries' governments. Meanwhile, he said, the oil-exporting developing countries are suffering from a drop in oil prices and from shrinking revenues, at a time when they are more entitled than others to these revenues.

Radio Reports 'Secret' Contacts With DRPK

TA2203074794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Israel is holding secret contacts with North Korea in a bid to prevent it from supplying Iran with long-range missiles. These contacts are being held against the wishes of the United States and contrary to Israel's promise to coordinate its relations with North Korea with the United States. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

Several weeks ago, Israeli diplomats met with senior North Korean representatives in Beijing in the framework of secret contacts between the two countries. The contacts are designed to secure an agreement that would prevent North Korea from supplying Iran with Nodong missiles. These missiles, which have a range of 1,000 km, can carry chemical and nuclear warheads. In exchange, Israel is proposing to help raise approximately $1 billion among U.S. Jewish businessmen for civilian projects in North Korea.

The contacts between the two countries are mainly coordinated by the Israeli Embassy in Beijing. The secret talks are being held against the wishes of the United States, which is currently conducting a campaign against North Korea in view of the latter's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The Israeli-North Korean connection started approximately two years ago. One of the main mediators is an American Jewish businessman whose identity is being kept secret for fear that the U.S. authorities will harass him. Following preliminary contacts, Eytan Bentzur, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, left for North Korea among a group of geologists. Once there, he held secret meetings with North Korean officials. Bentzur prepared a visit by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to North Korea, but at that point the United States intervened. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with Peres in Vienna and protested Israel's contacts with North Korea. Peres promised that all future contacts would be coordinated with the United States.

A senior political source in Jerusalem said the present contacts between Israel and North Korea are not necessarily being coordinated with the United States. We are dealing here with an Israeli security interest, and if we do not take care of it, nobody else will do it for us, the source claims.

Foreign Ministry Denies DPRK Contacts

TA2203093894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman this morning denied the report on IDF Radio and in HA'ARETZ according to which Israel and North Korea are conducting secret contacts. The Foreign Ministry says that the contacts between the two countries were stopped in the wake of a decision by the prime minister and foreign minister. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports, however, that political sources in Jerusalem confirmed the report that contacts were held between the two countries in a bid to prevent North Korea from supplying Iran with long-range Nodong missiles.

Sources Comment on Palestinian Police Force

TA2103095894 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Mar 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar, U.S. correspondent Natan Gutman, Pinhas 'Inbari, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The establishment of the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho will be given top priority in the resuming talks with the PLO and in the preliminary contacts. Israeli sources noted that Israel has acceded to the PLO demand to actually make it a paramilitary force, alongside the "blues."

In recent days, the PLO leadership has given its permission to reinstate some of the policemen who served under Israel and who quit their jobs during the intifadah. PLO official Ziyad 'Arif met last Saturday in Khan Yunus with those policemen. He told them to be ready to return to service on 15 April and handed them their first salary.

The Israeli sources pointed out that this police force will begin operating in the autonomy areas before the Palestine Liberation Army deploys its troops and will work in coordination with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] authorities until the Israeli withdrawal.

Settlers Council To Fight Hebron Evacuation

TA2203160094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip [CJSJSG] has decided to oppose the evacuation of Jews from Hebron by any means.

At a special meeting in Qiryat Arba', the council made several practical decisions in order to prevent any evacuation.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the CJSJSG implied that it would settle several houses in Hebron's Jewish quarter. Council members stressed that the settlers would not resort to physical violence against the security forces or harm them in any way.

Shahal Rejects Kakh's Conditions for Surrender

TA2103055194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has rejected Kakh leader Barukh Marzel's conditions for surrendering to police. The hunt continues for Marzel. Last night, police

detectives searched the home in Petah Tiqva of Kakh activist Natan Levi. Levi told a Qol Yisra'el reporter that he has no idea where Marzel is and that he doesn't think Marzel would hide out at the home of someone identified with Kakh.

Marzel, who has been in hiding for several weeks, has said he would turn himself in with the mediation of several Knesset members, including Avraham Ravitz of the United Torah Party, but Shahal said the law forbids him to respond to such conditions.

Commission Hears Testimony on Firing Orders

TA2103170194

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1130 GMT and 1600 GMT on 21 March report on the morning and afternoon sessions of the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre.

In the morning, the commission heard testimony from Brigadier General Moshe Ya'alon, the former commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Judaea and Samaria, who told the commission that "it had not been foreseen and that he did not prepare contingency plans for events he considered remote from reality." The committee heard testimony behind closed doors from Colonel Moshe Zarqa, the IDF intelligence officer in Judaea and Samaria.

Harley Braidman reports: "Brig. Ya'alon told the committee that from the evidence so far it emerges that among officers and men there was a misunderstanding about the order not to fire at Jews and this needed correction. He said there were many confrontations between Arabs and Jews at the Patriarchs' Cave, mainly over prayer arrangements. Ya'alon made it clear that it was decided to allow Jewish worshipers to enter the cave armed because of the attacks against Jews in the Hebron area. Even after the massacre no hasty conclusions should be drawn about the license to carry weapons there in view of the concern that a large number of Arab worshipers might attack Jews.

"As for the orders on opening fire, the brigadier said there was clear discrimination because sometimes during Arab rioting the soldiers' lives were endangered and they had permission to start shooting in certain circumstances. One the other hand, there was no permission to fire on Jewish worshipers because the possibility of a Jew attacking a soldier was not envisaged. He also noted that the use of tear gas against Jewish rioters required special approval by the commander of Israeli forces in Judaea and Samaria. Ya'alon added: It was obvious that the soldiers seeing somebody commit a grave crime endangering the lives of others should intervene to prevent that crime and even shoot the perpetrator."

In the afternoon, the commission heard testimony from Brig. Gen. Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, who said that the Cave of the Patriarchs "had been a source of tension for years between Arabs and Jews."

Harley Braidman reports: "Zohar said it is not mission impossible to make satisfactory prayer arrangements for Jews and Arabs at the Patriarchs' Cave, but it is problematic. The Muslims believe the presence of Jews in the place which they think belongs to them is a slight. They acquiesce in silence with the status quo, but are prepared to make prayer arrangements. The Jews, Zohar added, are trying to base a permanent presence in Isaac's Hall to the chagrin of the Muslims. Both sides attempt to change specifics. The constant changes in Muslim and Jewish holidays are a source of tension, he said. The issues have been raised in discussions with the Central Region commander and in the Forum for the Territories with the participation of Defense Minister Rabin. Prayer arrangements are now being discussed with the Civil Administration and when the cave is reopened there may be new arrangements. Zohar also was not happy about the way the police functioned at the cave because it had failed to deal effectively with a string of illegal incidents there, such as throwing acid on carpets and tearing off mezuzot."

Background of Hebron Inquiry Commission Detailed

TA1903200394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 11 Mar 94 pp 4, 5

[Article by Roni Shaqed: "The Investigators Were Appointed According to Clan Affiliation"]

[Text] Six days after the Hebron massacre, the Academics Association offices in Hebron received the following faxed message: "In view of my authority, and in view of the circumstances, I hereby order the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre. The Commission is to present its findings to the PLO Executive Committee as soon as possible." The message was signed by "Yasir 'Arafat, President of the State of Palestine."

Attorney Hashim Salman al-Qawasimi was appointed chairman of the commission of inquiry. He was named along with five lawyers, three physicians, two clergymen, and two public figures; all Hebron residents who represent the large families in the city.

"I was surprised by the appointment," al-Qawasimi said last week. "No one called me from Tunis, and no one in the territories has spoken to me about setting up the committee." Al-Qawasimi, 50, had worked for 17 years for the Civil Administration judicial system in the West Bank. In his last duty he was president of the Ramallah District Court. He has engaged in private practice since 1985 and is not politically affiliated with any camp. "Being a judicial investigator, I take orders from no one, nor am I subject to any element," he said. "This is a professional, not a political committee, and its job is finding the truth."

Last Friday, a day after they received the letter of appointment, the members of the committee convened and established working procedures. The five lawyers were tasked with collecting evidence and eye-witness testimonies. The three physicians were to collect medical evidence. The remaining three committee members were to collect evidence linked with the cave itself. The committee wishes to end its work in two weeks, at the most. To this end, they are assisted by Hebron attorneys who collect testimonies of eye witnesses and the wounded.

The Hebron committee has managed to obtain testimonies from several Israelis. "We received written testimonies which were legally obtained. I will not say whether they were from civilians or servicemen," al-Qawasimi said.

Last weekend, al-Qawasimi drafted a letter addressed to the military governor of Hebron, asking for permission to question Army soldiers and officers. He is about to send a copy of the letter to the defense minister. "We have to question anyone who witnessed the massacre, including Israelis. If we are allowed to question Israelis, it would be a precedent and will serve as basis for future cooperation," al-Qawasimi said.

[Shaqed] Why not cooperate with the Israeli commission of inquiry?

[Al-Qawasimi] Our committee has no authority to judge those responsible; we cannot judge those who govern us. Thus, cooperation with the Israeli commission will never be on an equal basis. Also, if we ask for their cooperation, they would not agree." [end al-Qawasimi]

Fayiz Qapishah, a committee member considered a representative of the families of the wounded, does not rule out cooperation with the Israeli commission. "I am willing to testify before the Israeli committee, provided that my remarks are publicized. In the end, we want to find the truth."

Last week, the members of the committee did not listen to Qol Yisra'el in Arabic which carried live the Shamgar commission deliberations with simultaneous translation. Only after the Israeli committee members toured Hebron last Wednesday did those siding with cooperating with it win the upper hand. One of the offers raised was to officially ask Israel to cooperate with the commission. This way the Hebron committee hopes to obtain material which is in the hands of Israel, such as the videotapes of the cave cameras.

Other voices were heard as well, however. "The Israeli committee represents the side that committed the murders. It was established to whitewash the Israeli administration," said 'Ali al-Qawasimi, who is considered the Hebron Fatah leader. "Whether we trust the Shamgar committee will be determined in lieu of its conclusions."

One of the central questions the Hebron committee wishes to determine is whether Barukh Goldstein operated alone or was aided by others. Many eyewitnesses told the committee that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers also shot at the worshipers. One of them said that one of the soldiers was standing next to Goldstein and handed him magazines. As a rule, the residents of Hebron find it hard to believe that Goldstein managed to kill and injure so many worshipers with only 111 bullets.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Ashhab, the head of the committee's medical team, said: "Most of the people were shot in the back, but some were shot in the side of their body, which indicates that some of the fire came from a different direction. In the X-Ray pictures we identified metal of other objects that do not look like slugs. Perhaps it was shrapnel. This may indicate that the murderer also threw hand grenades."

Another member of the committee, former Hebron Mayor Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, tried to sound more careful: "Our evidence indicate that the murderer threw two hand grenades. I would say there is a 90-percent probability that he used hand grenades. Also, we cannot yet clearly determine that he acted alone. This will only become apparent at the end of the investigation."

Another issue the committee wants to determine is the precise number of casualties of the massacre and the shooting outside the Cave of the Patriarchs. Until this day, two weeks after the massacre, there no final figure. The IDF determined that 29 were killed and some 50 were wounded in the incident. The residents of Hebron say that 32 were killed and some 200 were wounded in the massacre.

"We collect all the evidence. We receive evidence from the hospitals, such as death certificates, if there are any. We obtained documents from the mukhtar, and visited the homes of the dead," Attorney 'Abd-al-Ghani al-'Awawi said. "The same procedure applies to the wounded."

The East Jerusalem Waqf handed over to the committee a file of its correspondence with the Defense Ministry containing hundreds of complaints about abuse of Muslim worshipers by Jewish settlers in the Cave of the Patriarchs. Attorney al-'Awawi said that the committee will examine testimonies and the security arrangements and procedures in the cave. "We question the guards and the other workers, and anyone who was in touch with the Israeli authorities on issue pertaining to the cave."

There is almost not a single committee members whose clan or close family does not have a casualty of the Hebron massacre. The daily reality of Hebron adds tension to the already tense inquiry. The committee members move between hospitals, mourning families, houses of the wounded and eye witnesses. Being under curfew, movement around Hebron includes undergoing checks at IDF roadblocks or the chance of encountering a violent clash.

Since the murder, support for the PLO reached an unprecedented low in Hebron. The street is not too anxious to cooperate with a committee associated with Fatah. In the middle of last week, the committee attempted to shake off any marker that would associate it with Fatah or any other organization. Until last Tuesday, the committee sat in the Academics Association building. On Wednesday, it moved to offices hired for its purposes.

Attorney Husayn al-Shayukhi, one of 'Arafat's associates in Hebron, was not pleased with the establishment of the committee: " 'Arafat's advisers misled him by advising to establish a Hebron commission of inquiry. The Cave of the Patriarchs is sacred to all Arabs and Muslims, not only the Hebron residents. Therefore, there was a need to establish an international committee; or at least an Arab or Muslim committee. If this was impossible, a committee that includes members from throughout the territories should have been set up. It should have included representatives of all movements, including the Islamic. And, in general, a committee should not have been established at all because it lacks authority."

Last week, before the PLO committee was set up, another Palestinian committee began investigating the incident. It was appointed by the Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem. It is headed by the Hebron religious court judge Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Muktasib. It includes notables identified with the PLO opposition, such as Shaykh Taysir Bayyud al-Tamimi, and Dr. 'Aziz Duwayk, both of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Natshah, who is considered affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

This committee is conducting an investigation of its own. Being part of the religious establishment, its members approached the Civil Administration, through the East Jerusalem Waqf, asking for permission to enter the Cave of the Patriarchs. The have been rejected so far. Shaykh al-Tamimi, who is normally in charge of the cave, fears that Israel is using the massacre to change the complex. "We have testimonies that Israel has brought building materials into the cave. We will not agree to any changes in the complex, certainly not to erecting walls inside the cave."

Another committee set up in Hebron is made of family members of the murdered. European and Arab organizations and institutions have announced their willingness to financially support the victims' families. Israel also announced it will compensate them. The families are afraid that the some of the money will be lost on its way to Hebron. They decided that any contribution made will be presented only through the families' committee, or through the Hebron charity foundation, controlled by Hamas.

The family members are not interested in any of the commissions of inquiry. "We paid the price," they say, "and the committees will not bring our loved ones back."

The Hebron youths also showed no interest in the work of the committees. "Revenge—this is the conclusion of our commission of inquiry. Nothing but revenge."

Justice Ministry Rejects Extraditing Dotan, Katz

TA2003115494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Mar 94 p A5

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Excerpts] The Justice Ministry rejects the possibility of extraditing Rami Dotan or Attorney Harold Katz to the United States if they are convicted by a U.S. court on the basis of the charges submitted against them in Ohio at the end of last week.

Justice Ministry spokesman Eti Asher explained yesterday that "Israeli law does not permit the extradition of Israeli citizens to foreign countries, even for extraditable offenses. That is the reason the United States has not submitted any request for the extradition of Rami Dotan and Attorney Harold Katz." [passage omitted]

Asher added that the United States could request Israel's permission to initiate Israeli court proceedings against the men named in the charge sheets, if they are indeed convicted by the U.S. courts, but it has yet to do so. The United States can also demand their extradition from any third country they may visit or in which they may reside. [passage omitted]

Gur Links Syria, Iran to Hizballah Actions

TA2203133194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The northern border has been quiet in the 24 hours since yesterday's clashes in south Lebanon. Defense establishment sources now say that the Syrians are directly connected to yesterday's attack in which two Nahal Brigade soldiers were killed. Our military correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Yehuda] There is a direct link between the Syrians and the Iranians on the one hand and yesterday's events and the Hizballah attacks on the other Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur stated today. Both countries support Hizballah and have some sort of hidden competition going on between them as to who will extend it more support in weapons and other areas.

[Gur] There is no doubt whatsoever that there is a direct link between the Syrians and Hizballah. We have had countless evidence that if the Syrians wish it, Hizballah will hold its fire. One cannot say they are the sole influence on Hizballah since the Iranians also have a say there, but there is no question that the Syrians have a great deal of influence over Hizballah's actions.

[Ben-Yehuda] Hizballah has been showing signs of having regained its strength since Operation Accountability. Deputy Minister Gur said Hizballah has

improved its method of operation and has recently acquired sophisticated weapons.

[Gur] Hizballah's ability is quite considerable. In the past year it acquired modern and sophisticated weapons. It has also adopted a more sophisticated method of operation. Therefore, its ability to operate can not be dismissed. This necessitates us being constantly on alert and thinking of ways to overcome these new factors.

[Ben-Yehuda] Gur was visiting Eti Kohen, the woman wounded in yesterday's terrorist attack near the settlement of 'Ateret. He added that it is not yet clear what additional waves of terror are to be expected in the wake of the massacre in Hebron. He went on to say that there are currently large numbers of troops in the field and that the security forces have been adopting numerous and diverse measures to guarantee maximum security. [end recording]

'Terrorist,' Israeli Hurt in Territories Incidents

TA2003115594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] A terrorist has been seriously wounded by Border Police gunfire in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that shots were fired at a Border Police patrol from a passing car. The policemen were unharmed and returned the fire. The terrorists fled in a car. Later, one of them arrived with serious wounds at a Gaza hospital and was arrested.

An Israeli citizen sustained serious head injuries when stones were hurled at him in central Ramallah. He fled to an adjacent cafe where Arab patrons who tried to protect him were also attacked. The man barely managed to escape to a police station in Ramallah. His car was torched.

Blind Arab Dies After Being Shot by IDF, 16 Wounded

TA2103171894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] At least 16 Palestinians have been wounded during disturbances today in the territories, nine in Qalqilyah, five in the Gaza Strip, and two in Bethlehem. In Hebron, a protest rally was staged against the curfew on the town and the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs. Although there were some clashes in the morning, later in the day the Israeli security forces refrained from intervening.

A 28-year-old blind Palestinian from Gaza has died in hospital from wounds after being shot, reportedly in error, by the Border Police. The man, Ahmad Ali, who came from the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood, apparently got caught up in an exchange of fire when gunmen attacked the Border Police.

Two Injured in Bus Attack Near Settlement

TA2103175394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Here is a special news report following a terrorist attack in the Binyamin area. There was a shooting attack near the settlement of 'Ateret. According to initial reports, two Egged bus passengers were seriously injured. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports from the studio:

There was a shooting attack near the settlement of 'Ateret, which is situated north of Jerusalem. Apparently two Israelis were seriously injured and three others were also wounded, although their condition remains unclear. The Israelis were hit by gunfire directed at an Egged No. 468 bus which drove by the settlement of 'Ateret in the Binyamin area on the Bi'r Zayt bypass. The bus, was travelling from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and picking up passengers from settlements in the Binyamin area. Seven Israeli ambulances are currently racing to the scene in order to evacuate the wounded, apparently to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. Large Army forces are also making their way to the scene of the attack in order to treat the wounded and close off the site.

We have just received an update on the condition of the wounded: Five are currently receiving first aid at the scene and initial reports indicate that two of the wounded are in serious condition and will soon be evacuated to hospital.

Paper Views Damage of UN Resolution on Hebron

TA2003124594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Mar 94 p B1

[Editorial: "The United Nations Collects the Toll"]

[Text] If the peace process starts moving again at this time—first with the Palestinians, and later with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—the development, desirable as it may be, will be taking place in the shadow of the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution, which Israel will find hard to digest. From the very first moment, it was clear that the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre would result in a harsh condemnation of Israel. Any American effort to prevent more painful damage was doomed to fail. The UNSC resolution portrays Israel as a country unable to provide security for the Palestinian residents of the occupied territories by itself. Therefore, the United Nations demands that Israel host an international observer force which would supervise the Israeli military government. The fact that Jerusalem was mentioned as part of the occupied territories reinforces the United Nations' refusal to recognize the undivided city as Israel's capital.

The U.S. policymakers tried to prevent such a resolution; but other than blocking a demand that the international observer force be armed, it scored no substantive achievement. The procedural achievement—holding a

clause-by-clause vote—only allowed the Americans to express their reservations over the mention of Jerusalem. But the pressure AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] put on the U.S. Administration to order its UN representative to veto the entire resolution did not succeed. Clinton and Christopher can tell American Jewry that they did their best to soften the blow to Israel, but the scope of the Hebron disaster reduced their ability to do so.

The government certainly entertains no illusions about the gravity of the U.S. failure—which is its own failure as well. At the same time, it is trying to find consolation in the fact that the UNSC resolution could pave the way for the resumption of contacts with the other peace process partners. Nevertheless, any Israeli attempt to diminish the impact of the resolution—for example, restricting the number of observers to a certain minimum—might be dependent on concessions we will have to make in the direct negotiations with the PLO delegation.

Naturally, the fact that the PLO leadership agreed to receive the Israeli delegation and hold discussions with it, which means the resumption of the negotiations about an early withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, is welcome. At the same time, Rabin will apparently have to agree that the Tunis discussions will also deal with the means that need to be employed to protect the Palestinians. The qualification made last week, according to which the issue will be discussed "in accordance with the government's resolution," should not mislead us. We had better not act surprised when the PLO, on whose territory the discussions are being held, demands that all the Jewish settlers be evacuated from Hebron.

Even if the government wishes to hold on to Qiryat Arba' for the time being, there is no reason to expect that it will succeed in holding on to the Jewish settlement inside Hebron by concentrating the settlers in one or two sites instead of the current seven. Had the government pulled them out immediately after the massacre—risking petitions to the High Court of Justice and braving the opposition—Israel could have suffered less damage at the UNSC. At this time, there is serious doubt whether the government will be able to avoid making the move it had hoped to avoid while leaning on the United States. The right-wing parties have no reason to claim that their demonstrations influenced the government. The fact that the belief that Israel would be able to avoid paying a price for the Hebron massacre was mistaken is now clearly visible to all.

House of Representatives Concludes Session

Al-Majali on U.S. Navy, Ross Visit

JN2203142494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Report by Jamal 'Abbadi from parliament]

[Excerpts] The royal decree adjourning the ordinary session of the 12th Parliament as of tomorrow was read at the beginning of the House of Representatives' session today. [passage omitted]

The House then discussed several issues that were not on the agenda, in particular a proposal presented by 20 deputies regarding acts by the U.S. Navy that include obstructing al-'Aqabah-bound ships and conducting unjustified inspections of these ships. Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali commented on this by saying:

[Begin al-Majali recording] I met with the U.S. ambassador before I came here this morning. I reiterated to him all that was in your speech [not further identified] in a very clear way. A few weeks ago, we sent a legal memorandum to the Security Council to prove this is wrong and illegal. The government is following up on this issue. The assistant U.S. secretary of state will come [to Jordan] this evening and this issue will clearly be on the agenda. During his visit to the United States, his majesty the king raised this issue with President Clinton, the secretary of defense, and others. In my capacity as the prime minister, I went to the committee [not further identified] itself and addressed it on this issue with all the strength and courage we have. I hope the esteemed House will know that since the beginning of this issue the Government of Jordan has taken the initiative to deal with it, and even this morning we discussed this issue. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

U.S. Abstention on Resolution Condemned

JN2203134694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The House of Representatives has condemned and denounced the U.S. abstention from voting on two clauses of UN Resolution 904 that consider Jerusalem an occupied territory. The House also condemned a U.S. statement that the Palestinian territories are disputed and not occupied territories.

In a statement issued today, the House called on Arab and Islamic parliaments, as well as the parliaments of states upholding just causes, to officially protest against the U.S. position. The House said it strongly regretted the poor coordination of the Arab delegations at the United Nations, which contributed to this result.

The House appealed to the kings and presidents of the Arab states to call for a summit in order to discuss the situation of the Palestinian and Arab people under occupation and shoulder their responsibilities toward the brothers who are being exposed to a continuous annihilation campaign.

The House of Representatives expressed its appreciation for the steadfastness of the heroic Palestinian people and their legitimate defense of their lands and rights, emphasizing its support for these struggling people.

House Delegations To Support Iraq

JN2203101494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 94 pp 1, 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's 12th Parliament ends its first regular session today, with expectations high that it would be recalled for an extraordinary session next month to formalise several pieces of legislation that the government has forwarded to it as emergency laws. [passage omitted]

On Monday, the House unanimously approved a proposal made by Deputy Samir Habashinah to form a parliamentary delegation to visit "understanding" countries to explain the "suffering of Iraqis" in view of the U.N. Security Council's recent decision to maintain the 43-month-old international sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Habashinah (Karak) noted that U.N. inspectors have reported that Iraq had complied with the Security Council conditions for lifting the sanctions and referred to the futile efforts last week by countries such as France, China, Russia, Turkey and Iran to issue a Security Council statement acknowledging Iraq's cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission charged with eliminating its weapons of mass destruction.

It was not immediately known when the House would form a delegation to lobby on behalf of Iraq.

During Monday's session, the government answered several questions raised by deputies concerning services in their districts.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi said he reserved his right to officially interpellate the government concerning the legality of licencing companies offering security services.

Mr. al-Dughmi (Mafraq) charged that such companies abuse the authority given to them by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in a manner that "threatens our security and safety" and get paid for it.

The deputy asserted that it was no coincidence that his car was damaged and Deputy Habashinah's was stolen after the two legislators publicly criticised security service companies.

The two lawmakers are demanding that licenses issued to the private security firms be withdrawn and government forces undertake the responsibility of providing security wherever needed.

Paper Profiles, Views New U.S. Ambassador

JN2203103194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Mar 94 p 22

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "The New U.S. Ambassador"]

[Text] The new U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley Egan, is a heavyweight. Once the second man in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, he also served in Saudi Arabia, two African countries, and a European nation. His choice for the new job signals the importance the United States attaches to Jordan in terms of inter-Arab politics and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Before Egan's appointment became final, he had to go through a grueling test in the U.S. Senate, where Senator Daniel Moynihan, the Zionist Democrat from New York, presided over the hearing that scrutinized the would-be ambassador's credentials and went on to confirm his nomination.

In his testimony, Egan told the hearing he would work to develop relations between the United States and Jordan and enhance Jordan's role in the peace process. He pointed out that Jordan signed a joint agenda with Israel that will presumably culminate in a peace treaty between the two countries.

His said his top priority in Amman will be to propel the peace process forward and recognize Jordan's energetic role in the effort to bring about a comprehensive Middle East peace. Mr. Egan will pay special attention to stability in Jordan, and watch its democratic march and economic development. He will also watch Jordan's approach to a number of other issues: human rights, compliance with the sanctions resolution against Iraq, terminating the boycott of U.S. companies doing business with Israel, the potential for foreign investment both in Jordan and elsewhere in the region, and the fight against terrorism.

Much as I take exception to some of the issues that will engage the new ambassador's attention, I concern myself here with a lecture Moynihan delivered at the confirmation hearing. Discussing the West Bank and Gaza, he dismissed as inappropriate the designation attached to them as occupied territories, and asked: If these are occupied territories, who were they occupied by? These territories, contended the senator, were never the sovereign domain of anyone; it was Jordan that occupied the West Bank at the founding of the state of Israel. What Israel did was to take the West Bank from Jordan the way it took Gaza from Egypt. Previously, these territories were part of the British mandate, and before that they fell within the realm of the Ottoman Empire. Mr. Moynihan's point, in other words, is that these territories are up for grabs. The United States, he noted, never recognized Jordan's sovereignty over the West Bank. His bottom line: Israel did not occupy territory that was under another nation's sovereignty.

This Zionist senator's remarks are not supposed to be Washington's official line. However, they do mirror an undeclared U.S. line dictated by the all-powerful Zionist lobby—a line that is now all but declared with the bizarre voting stance of the United States toward the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre.

Arabs, Muslims Urged To Pressure U.S. on Jerusalem

JN2203093894 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Mar 94 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "For Arab-Muslim Complexion of Jerusalem"]

[Text] The international community, as well as Arabs and Muslims, ought to lend a hand to Jordan's broad-based drive for U.S. recognition that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories.

To quote His Majesty King Husayn, it is vital that Washington be bound by previously U.S.-endorsed UN resolutions granting the Arab identity of [east] Jerusalem.

We will not beat around the bush. With all honesty we will tell all Arab and Muslim nations they have to back the Jordanian moves and join His Majesty King Husayn's drive to uphold the Arab-Islamic complexion and sanctity of Jerusalem. The absence of Arab solidarity and a less-than-firm Islamic position has tempted Israel to pursue its expansionist ambitions in the occupied Arab territories, most of all in Jerusalem. It has also prompted the United States to backtrack on previous positions and so abstain on the Jerusalem part of UN Security Council Resolution 904.

Should this kind of Arab and Islamic position persist, the Arab-Islamic complexion of Jerusalem will be commandeered in broad daylight with U.S., and maybe international, support.

Arab and Muslim leaders cannot afford to remain mere spectators as the Arab-Islamic complexion of Jerusalem, the al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock is hijacked. It is the duty of every Arab and Muslim to strive to maintain the identity of this holy city. Under no circumstances should we remain passive toward the plot to confiscate Jerusalem's identity and Judaize it and its Islamic shrines.

Hence our argument that all Arab and Muslim leaders must heed His Majesty King Husayn's call and join forces with him to preempt the confiscation of Jerusalem's identity and bring sufficient pressure to bear in the interest of a renewed commitment by the U.S. Administration to the UN Security Council resolutions according to which Jerusalem is occupied territory not subject to annexation by Israel under any circumstances.

If the U.S. Administration really cares about a viable peace process, it will have to rethink its positions and obligate itself to UN resolutions and the terms of reference of the Madrid conference that the United States itself initiated. Otherwise, the peace process is doomed.

Paper Attacks U.S.-Led Blockade as 'Unacceptable'

JN2203091194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Wrong Target]

[Text] It was unfortunate for Jordan that the U.N. Security Council, under pressure from the U.S. and Britain, decided last week to extend the sanctions imposed on Iraq indefinitely—despite the fact that Iraq has complied with most if not all of the Security Council resolutions, especially those related to arms control. This extension of the sanctions was forced by the United States and the British despite favourable reports by U.N. envoys and inclination on the part of the other council members—France, Russia and China—to start lifting the sanctions regime. The council's decision, of course, did not take into consideration the fact that the sanctions are having tremendously negative results on the Iraqi people and are doing so little to change the Iraqi regime itself. Furthermore, the sanctions are taking their toll on Jordan, which has lost hundreds of millions of dollars already as a result of abiding by them.

While trade is being freely practised all along the Iraqi borders with Iran, Turkey and Syria, the U.S.-led U.N. naval force targets al-Aqabah, Jordan's only sea outlet, for a harsh regime of inspection. The Jordanian leadership and Jordanian officials have repeatedly complained to the U.S. government over such an unfair treatment. And U.S. officials, including Secretary Warren Christopher during his last visit here, have repeatedly promised to address the matter. So far nothing has materialised. This state of affairs is of course unacceptable. Jordan is being itself blockaded and by its so-called friends. Jordanian businesses are losing in terms of delays and diversions of cargo and harassments by the U.N. naval force. Under international law, a sea blockade is considered to be war.

Jordan has over the decades proved itself a respected and respectful member of the international community and an adherent of the U.N. Charter and its resolutions. Especially as pertains to the Gulf crisis, the Kingdom has abided by all the Security Council resolutions. For these reasons we feel that the U.S., despite protestations to the country, is targetting the country for no good reason at all. The U.S., therefore, needs to realise that such policies are counterproductive and threaten both the well-being of Jordan and the much-aspired to peace in the region.

Shipping Official on Losses From Embargo on Iraq

NC2003175194 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Al-'Aqabah, Jordan, March 20 (AFP)—Jordan's Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah lost 440 million dollars in revenue last year because of the UN embargo imposed on its northern neighbor Iraq, a shipping official said.

"The continued embargo prevents the port of al-'Aqabah from developing and resuming the activity level it had in 1989," according to Sufyan al-Muhaysin, director of the Jordanian shipping agents association.

"Trade should have recorded an annual growth of five to 10 percent in the last four years," he said.

In 1993, 1,498 ships docked in Aqaba, compared to 1,552 in 1989. The port handled a total of 11.55 million tonnes of goods last year, down from the 18.5 million tonnes in 1989.

The 38 percent drop in activity from 1989 "in fact conceals a decrease of more than 50 percent compared to what should have been recorded in 1993 if there had not been an embargo on Iraq and a blockade of the port," he said.

Instead of 11.55 million tonnes, the port should have handled 24.2 million tonnes, he said. The resulting loss in revenue for 1993 was 440 million dollars.

Since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, ships heading to al-'Aqabah have had to submit to strict inspections by US, French and Australian warships in the Straits of Tiran.

Because of these measures designed to stop banned goods from reaching Iraq through Jordan, only 19 of the 40 shipping companies that used to serve Aqaba before the Gulf crisis continue to sail to the port.

A shipping source told AFP that Jordanian officials were in contact with international organizations to consider a plan to put inspectors in the port rather than at sea.

The London-based firm Lloyds has agreed to provide inspections but a final decision was awaited from the UN Security Council, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The Security Council imposed the embargo on Iraq days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Paper on Kuwait's Condition To Restore Relations

JN2103174894 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 21-22 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Informed sources have said that Jordan has received an indirect Kuwaiti offer on bilateral relations. The sources added that the offer calls for restoring Kuwaiti-Jordanian relations if Amman announces its agreement on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border demarcation. The sources said that Jordan has not responded to the

offer which was conveyed unofficially by a party described as a friend of both countries.

Minister Denies Reports on Cooperation With Israel

JN1803134694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Minister of Transport Adib Halasah has denied reports by the Israeli media on statements attributed to him on a plan to establish cooperation between Jordan and Israel in the field of transportation, especially in the Gulf of Aqaba area.

Halasah told the Jordanian News Agency that reports on this issue are baseless. He said that the Jordanian delegation's stand during the meetings of the second European conference on transportation recently held on the Greek Island of Crete was not to contact the Israeli delegation taking part in the conference.

Bank To Reopen Branches in West Bank, Gaza Strip

JN2003102994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 94 p 3

["By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter"]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Arab Land Bank has received an Israeli License to reopen two branches in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and plans to start operations in late April, banking officials said Saturday [19 March].

They said the bank, whose headquarters are in Cairo, received the licenses from the Bank of Israel last week after the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) issued preliminary licences.

The bank is seeking to reopen up to five branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but it received Israeli approvals for only one branch in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and the other in the Gaza Strip, they said.

The Arab Land Bank became the second known Jordanian Bank to get Israeli licenses in line with a memorandum of understanding signed by Jordan and Israel in December.

The Bank of Jordan got an Israeli license last week to reopen a branch in Ramallah in the West Bank.

Other Jordanian banks which have received preliminary licenses from the CBJ include the Arab Bank, Jordan's largest commercial bank, the Jordan-Gulf Bank and the Jordan National Bank. The CBJ is known to have issued preliminary licenses for a total of eight branches of the five banks. [passage omitted]

King Visits Wounded From Hebron Massacre

JN2003203494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening visited the wounded victims from the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre, who are receiving medical treatment at the al-Husayn Medical Center in Amman and reassured himself about their condition and the treatment they receive from their brothers in this esteemed medical establishment.

The wounded patients expressed thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for his generous Hashemite initiative toward the victims of the ugly massacre, committed in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque during the blessed month of Ramadan, and Jordan's honorable pan-Arab position, under the leadership of his majesty in support of their brothers the sons of the Palestinian people and the holy shrines in all circumstances.

His Majesty King Husayn had ordered the formation of a higher committee to raise donations for the massacre's victims. His majesty donated a sum of 100,000 dinars for the victims, and ordered that everything possible be provided to assist the wounded in Jordanian hospitals.

King Husayn was accompanied by His Highness Prince Hamzah Bin-al-Husayn, and al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court chief.

Paper Reports 'Untold Story' of King's Pilgrimage

JN1703122494 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The Untold Story of the Minor Pilgrimage"]

[Text] The king's visit to Saudi Arabia was the result of a an initiative by Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The Yemeni official expressed a desire to visit Saudi Arabia and meet with King Fahd following the signing of the Yemeni reconciliation agreement in Amman [on 20 February]. King Fahd personally spoke on the phone to al-Bid, in the presence of King Husayn who was visiting his guest al-Bid at al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman.

Al-Bid conveyed to King Fahd greetings from King Husayn, who was at his side. When he heard words of welcome from King Fahd, al-Bid informed him of King Husayn's desire to speak with him and gave the receiver to King Husayn, who expressed a wish to visit the holy places to perform the minor pilgrimage.

Thus, the Yemeni initiative and the Jordanian desire began to materialize.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, al-Bid placed on his agenda the task of paving the way for king Husayn's visit. He suggested to King Fahd a meeting with King

Husayn. King Fahd answered as follows: This requires a decision from the "family" and I have no means of making that decision now.

The visit was not intended to carry out a religious duty and continue a tradition the king has followed for many decades during Ramadan, which he was forced to stop following the dire consequences and ramifications of the Gulf war over the past three years. King Husayn chose to perform the minor pilgrimage this year knowing that neither King Fahd, nor Crown Prince 'Abdallah, nor the second deputy prime minister, Prince Sultan, would receive him.

The chief of protocol, Ayman al-Majali, went to Saudi Arabia and was welcomed by the Saudi authorities. He brought with him the program of the visit that contained brief arrangements for performing religious rites but contained no meetings with any Saudi officials. The official reception at the airport and the mission of honor to accompany the king would be confined to Prince Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Some tried to use their good offices to promote the visit by making it an end to the estrangement, and by including Riyadh in it. The Jordanian side refused to continue this discussion after hearing of conditions that can be mildly described as unjust, encroaching on the credibility of the Jordanian stand. The required apology would have been correct if one side erred against another. In the case of Jordan we cannot be held responsible for something that cannot be applied to us. Even if the results were in the interest of the [Gulf war] alliance, this does not mean they were right in their stand. The facts confirm the credibility of the Jordanian position and its option not to approve of external intervention, which would bring only evil to all the Arab sides, not only Iraq. Iraq lost its resources and its ability, which had been a deterrent to the others who had been trying to commit aggression against the Arabs. The loss also covered the Gulf people who lost their savings and resources of their future generations and have become captives of foreigners in terms of their sovereignty, policy, finance, and economy.

To cut a long story short, the mediators failed, but the king insisted on making the visit and the pilgrimage and to hope for a surprise and an initiative at the eleventh hour. The king made his decision for more than one reason:

1. The king wanted to continue his tradition of performing the minor pilgrimage after it stopped following the Gulf war disaster. He chose this year to restore this tradition exploiting the state of relative ease in ties between Riyadh and Amman.

2. To end the deadlock with an initiative that would force the Saudis to shoulder their moral and political responsibilities toward the Jordanian stand, especially since Jordan has taken the first step and particularly now, after King Fahd has already received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who was accused of being biased toward the just Iraqi stand. It is known here that the Saudi monarch's reception of Yasir 'Arafat took place upon a U.S. recommendation that was discussed between 'Arafat and Christopher at the U.S. ambassador's residence in 'Abdun in Amman. Fatah Central Committee Member Faysal al-Husayni paved the way for the visit by responding to a Saudi invitation that has been kept on hold for two years at the instructions of President 'Arafat, who finally allowed the visit after he was certain that it would be the first step toward his own visit to Riyadh and to his being received by King Fahd when he performed the minor pilgrimage. Thus, 'Arafat's visit to Riyadh set a precedent for ending the estrangement between Riyadh and those Arab parties that rejected the Hafr al-Batin logic, the Desert Storm scenario, and the U.S. and foreign interference in our region. From this premise, King Husayn sought to test the programmed Saudi estrangement in order to test the credibility of relations with the United States and U.S. promises and claims that it is eager to lift the political and economic siege that is imposed on Jordan.

3. King Husayn chose his visit to the Islamic holy places on Saudi territory to be part of the challenge and to clarify things, lest the option of Jordanian-Saudi relations at present and in the future emerge as the option that should be adopted. But, the exceptional situation that resulted from the Gulf crisis imposed itself on this visit.

Those who are conversant with what is going on attribute the interruption in the trend toward ending the estrangement and restoring the relations between Riyadh and Amman to foreign interference. It is the same interference that still imposes a political and economic siege on Jordan, and carries out instigations against Amman, not only because of its stands on the Gulf crisis and its results, but because of the Jordanian refusal to sign a draft peace treaty with Israel. U.S. President Clinton officially asked King Husayn during the latter's recent visit to Washington to reach a draft peace treaty with the Israelis. However, Jordan did not budge from its explicit and firm stand that there will be no peace treaty with the Israelis before the others, and that if they do not all sign at the same time, then Jordan will be after them. This Jordanian stand has its consequences. Do the Jordanians have the requisites to stand fast in the face of the pressure, blackmail, and all forms of siege?

Investigations Into Recent Bombings Continue

NC2003071794 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Investigations into the recent wave of bombings remain the focus of attention, particularly after emerging clues that point clearly to the party that stands behind them. This prompted the army command to take basic measures and to deploy units in this party's centers that were used for planning these bombings.

Visitors of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, citing him, told our radio that there were four detainees in the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat church, and that two others managed to flee to the occupied border strip.

THE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, quoting concerned parties, said that the results of the investigations into the bombing will be made public next week at a meeting at Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah's office.

'Fugitive' Suspect Arrested in Church Bombing

NC2103140294 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR has reported that the security forces arrested a fugitive suspect involved in blowing up the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in al-Zuq. This brings the number of detainees who have confessed to participating in the crime to five, including a monk. A search is under way for six fugitive suspects, including the official in charge of the operation, who escaped to the occupied border zone.

AL-SAFIR adds that the detainees confessed to receiving their orders from two officers in the Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service. Investigations continue to determine how much the organizations to which the detainees belong know about the operation. According to AL-SAFIR, the official in charge of the operation is Pierre 'Ayn, a demolition expert who worked as an aide to a former Lebanese Forces official and who escaped to the occupied border zone along with two of his assistants.

Ja'ja' Reacts to State Security Measures

JN2103060094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, by correspondent Ahmad Birru in the studio; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ja'ja'] It is regrettable that the Sayyidat al-Najat Church bombing should be exploited in an attempt to outdo us in our continuous defense of society for the past 15 years in which we offered thousands of martyrs for this purpose. Many lightning strikes against the Lebanese Forces have been launched. Dozens of persons from these forces were arrested and all of them have subsequently been released. The Lebanese Forces' positions are always open and the Army has inspected them more than once. Finally, we were surprised to learn that these centers have been confiscated. The given excuses and rationale cannot be justified. I understand that the judicial sources can level charges and convict people. However, I do not know who accused the Lebanese Forces. Who are they? There have been leaks to the press and rumors to the media. We can see everything except a judicial investigation, which we should see. Ten days have passed so far since a number of measures and arrangements began which they said are security measures to uncover the perpetrators of the Sayyidat al-Najat massacre. But we have not seen anything tangible expect dark, clouds and repression measures that are being taken under the excuse of searching for the Sayyidat al-Najat attackers.

We were the first to demand uncovering those who carried out the church bombing. But what is happening today is a case of political repression of the Lebanese Forces.

[Birru] They say that at least three of the six suspects have been connected with or have confessed—the investigation continues—that they have something to do with the issue. Even the president has hinted that the investigations are about to uncover the suspects. Three of them belong to or frequent the Lebanese Forces centers and it is said that they left for the occupied border strip and from there to Israel and then to Europe and they returned to Kasrawan from Europe.

[Ja'ja'] This is our hope. We wish to see three persons admit that they placed the bomb. All the Lebanese people want this. But where are these three people? What are their names? Let them appear before the court. Who is doing the investigation? I do not know. Where are they? I do not know. What are their names? Nobody knows. As for the excuse that they visited the Lebanese Forces centers, any criminal can visit anywhere. If someone visits you and commits a murder two days later, this does not mean that you are also a criminal, that all fingers should be pointed at you, and that you should be accused. I categorically reject any charges against the Lebanese Forces as an establishment. Moreover, we would like the judiciary to carry out its responsibility and carry out its legal measures. Otherwise what is the law for?

Three, five, six, or 10 made confessions. Great. Let us uncover them and let the trial start so we know what is going on. Regrettably, the atmosphere is foggy and no one knows what is going on. There are a pack of rumors sometimes against the Lebanese Forces, sometimes against monks, and sometimes other groups. This is no investigation.

[Birru] The investigation is ongoing and the judiciary is continuing its work. Do you trust the Lebanese investigation and judiciary.

[Ja'ja'] I have every confidence in the Lebanese judiciary. Since the investigation is still continuing, how can some state circles accuse this or that person, this or that

side? Let us finish the investigation first and let us leave the case to the judiciary and then we will all support the law.

[Birru] Let us return to your relations with the regime, the state figures, the prime minister, the president, and the political parties taking part in the government. How are these relations now?

[Ja'ja'] If you please, before discussing these relations now, I have a brief explanation of what is going on against the Lebanese Forces. We all remember that following the Sayyidat al-Najat blast, the commander of the Lebanese Forces held a news conference in which he held the state responsible for the explosion and for any disturbance that might occur in the country. In my view what is going on now is that some of them want to get even by accusing the Lebanese Forces, and hence antagonizing the Lebanese Forces without anything and without any proof, before the investigation is completed and before the case is turned over to the Lebanese judiciary.

We regret this and we are complaining about it. For the past ten days, immense security measures have been inacted against the Ghidras centers. The Lebanese Forces centers have all been stormed and inspected, which is natural. But finally they were either occupied or confiscated under the pretext that they have a link. I understand that a person may have a link with an explosion or a security disturbance but for a building to have connection and to be arrested, this I do not understand.

With regard to your second question on our relations with senior state figures, and political parties in Lebanon, you are well aware that we were at the forefront of those who promoted the march of national reconciliation. Similarly, we will be the last to abandon this march. Consequently, we pursue dialogue as our basic approach in political action. Our relations with most, if not all, state figures are good. Concerning politics, we, at present, deem ourselves part of the political opposition. This means that we do not approve of anything done by state officials at present. We believe that there are many loopholes that need to be plugged. We also believe that we can do more to build a stronger Lebanon that can better shoulder its responsibilities.

[Birru] Dr. Samir Ja'ja': You, just like other Lebanese leaders, have recently gone to Syria to offer your condolences on the death of Staff Major Basil al-Asad. This apparently means that Samir Ja'ja' is maintaining ties with Damascus. What is the nature of these ties at present?

[Ja'ja'] There have always been ties between the Lebanese Forces and Damascus. Despite the difficult circumstances they have experienced, these ties have never been severed. These ties are still there. The visit I have made to Syria to offer my condolences on the regrettable incident that took place in Damascus is the least I could do.

[Birru] Are you critical of the Syrian role in aiding the Lebanese regime, or of the Syrian-Lebanese ties?

[Ja'ja'] We support whatever strengthens the Lebanese state. We support whatever contributes to the creation of a free and strong Lebanese state that is capable of shouldering its responsibilities, and ensuring for the Lebanese citizens their dignity, sovereignty, freedom, and livelihood. However, what has been taking place over the past two days does not speak well for the good conduct of some state institutions. That is why we hoped the officials holding constitutional posts would shoulder their responsibilities to correct the current mistakes. We believe that what is taking place constitutes a total repression of political freedoms. This hurts Lebanon. We hope that this repression will cease, and that the culprits who planted the bomb at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church will be uncovered. It is the true culprits of this blast who should be uncovered. We should not use the Sayyidat al-Najat Church blast as a cover to apply political pressure on a certain party. The culprits of this blast must be uncovered, and the necessary security precautions must be taken to protect the Lebanese people from all mischief.

[Birru] Dr. Samir Ja'ja': General Michel 'Awn, a previous rival, has recently spoken about the situation in Lebanon, criticizing the state. He has also talked about a federation between the Christians and Muslims in Lebanon. Do you share with him the view regarding the need to reconsider the territorial and political equation in Lebanon.

[Ja'ja'] You have said that Gen. Michel 'Awn is the archrival of the Lebanese Forces. He was our archrival four years ago. Why do you insist that he is still our archrival at present? Maybe, he is still the Lebanese Forces' rival. Maybe, he is no longer the archrival of the Lebanese Forces.

[Birru, laughing] He is known as the archrival of the Lebanese Forces.

[Ja'ja'] He wants to be seen as such. However, the Lebanese Forces do not want to be seen as rivals of any party. With regard to the issue of launching political plans, this is an open field for everyone. Each and every political party in Lebanon has the right to launch any political plan it deems fit, as long as dialogue is the approach pursued, and as long as the aim is to reach understanding. Each and every political party has the right to raise any political plan at the negotiating table. All other parties have the right to discuss this political plan. This is my comment on this issue.

[Birru] Do you still raise the proposal of forming a federation between Christians and Muslims in Lebanon?

[Ja'ja'] Our attitude toward this issue is well known. We believe that the Lebanese parties must hold constant consultations among themselves to reach the best possible situation. We believe that the paramount concern is to ensure the unity of Lebanon. Other issues are details

that can be discussed among all Lebanese parties. It goes without saying that some of the proposals regarding details, or minor issues, are better than others. We acknowledge this.

[Birru] To the best of my knowledge, municipal elections will be held one year from now. It is public knowledge that you boycotted parliamentary elections for obvious reasons. Will you take part in the next municipal elections?

[Ja'ja'] This is the third time municipal elections have been postponed. I have serious doubts that officials are serious in their efforts to hold municipal elections. All of us know that 1995 will be the year of presidential elections. Consequently, one can predict what officials will say then. They will say that 1995 is the year of presidential elections. Hence, municipal elections must be postponed, they will argue. Similarly, in 1996, they will say that 1996 is the year of parliamentary elections. Hence, they will postpone municipal elections. The same scenario will be repeated.

[Birru] Dr. Samir Ja'ja': Thank you.

[Ja'ja'] You are most welcome.

Hizballah Chief on Muslim Rule, Economy

NC2103220894 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 11 Mar 94 pp 4, 5, 6, 23

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, originally broadcast by the Voice of Faith in Islam radio station, by moderator Shafiq al-Musawi, Qasim al-Qasir, and other unidentified correspondents; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the past few years the world has witnessed major international and regional developments, including the fall of the USSR, the reappearance of nationalism, ethnic conflicts, the new world order slogan, and U.S. world dominance. The most notable theory to describe this change was that of U.S. thinker [Francis] Fukuyama, who said that "the world is witnessing the end of history through the triumph of Western liberal capitalism and its social, intellectual, and political values and the collapse of communist and Muslim ideologies."

Your eminence, after the collapse of the USSR some people said it was the end of history. How do you assess such international theories? Where does Islam stand on this? Where do the Islamic movements stand?

[Nasrallah] He who proposes the theory that we are approaching the end of history and considers the failure of the communist experiment in the USSR a victory for liberalism and capitalism is free to do so from his own perspective. However, when we assess these developments objectively, or at least from our own perspective, we reach a different conclusion. We agree with this theory as far as it means an end of history in one particular aspect. We disagree on the rest. If there were only two ideologies in the world, leaving no room for a third ideology, we might regard the collapse of one as a victory for the other. However, in the presence of other international ideologies professing to be able to build a civilization, the failure of the USSR's communist experiment does not necessarily signify a triumph of capitalist philosophy. The Islamists also consider, from their perspective, that the Soviet failure is a triumph for Islam and Islamic ideology. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You have pointed out that the USSR's collapse was a common victory for Islam and capitalism, if one may so describe it. Nevertheless, what distinguishes Western society is the issue of liberties and human rights. A major erroneous belief to which some people adhere is that the Islamists fail the liberty test. It is said that the Islamists, unlike Westerners, oppress others. The Salman Rushdie issue and the killing in Algeria are seen as major difficulties for Islamists in connection with liberties. What is your opinion?

[Nasrallah] To give a relativist answer to this question, we must divide it into two parts. The first deals with the West's presumed military power and strong position on human rights, liberties, and similar matters. The second part is connected with the Western accusation that the Islamists will abolish liberties and leave no room for an alternative opinions if they come to power.

Regarding the first part of the question, I certainly do not acknowledge that the West is strong on the human rights issue. When it speaks of human rights, it is referring more to slogans than to facts. Liberties have no intrinsic value to the West but are merely slogans and arguments exploited for the furtherance of the Western countries' major interests. To use an example, the West is rallying behind Salman Rushdie under the slogan of human rights but at the same time is willing to slaughter an entire nation if it stands up and demands self-determination, which is, after all, a very basic human right. [passage omitted]

Let us move to the second part of the question: Western power today is not intellectual but political, military, and economic power. Even this power is now buffeted by crises. Theoretically, any Islamist can simply stand up and declare that Islam is the religion of liberties, that it allows freedom of worship, and that it opposes compulsion in religion. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you think other governments in the Arab and Islamic world will deal with the Islamists in the way the governments of Egypt and Algeria are now dealing with their Islamists? Will our turn come in Lebanon? Should we draw a conclusion from the Airport Bridge massacre [reference to Lebanese Army's shooting of several Hizballah demonstrators on 13 September 1993]? What is your opinion?

Will the Islamists, in case they come to power, allow any other group to try to change Islamic rule by democratic

means, or are we going to then say: This is God's government and none may go against it?

[Nasrallah] The prevailing phenomenon in the Islamic world today is the suppression of Islamists. Egypt and Algeria are constantly in the news because the authorities there have failed to destroy the Islamic movement. Very ugly repression is occurring in other Islamic countries as well. In some of them, such as Tunisia and Iraq, the Islamists are oppressed almost to an unimaginable degree. Merely belonging to a certain party in those countries is enough to earn one the death penalty. In the Arab Maghreb the Islamists are brutally suppressed. In some countries the Islamists have remained steadfast, in others they have weakened. In what direction will we move in Lebanon? We cannot give definite answers. Of course, the United States does not want to suppress all voices in Lebanon; it wants all pro-Israeli and pro-U.S. voices to be strengthened and given all kinds of freedom. It seeks to deny Lebanon's option to be a part of this nation. [passage omitted]

Are we about to face suppression? Judging by the rulers' mentality, I say yes; but taking into account the Lebanese people's demographic makeup and enlightenment, I say it will not be easy for the rulers to do this.

[Correspondent] Will the Islamists allow, in a Western-like democratic spirit, their opponents to try to bring down an Islamic government in a democratic election? Will the Islamists accept this?

[Nasrallah] If some forces can persuade a nation that an Islamic government is not worthwhile, then I do not believe that such a government can stay in power. A minority cannot impose an Islamic government on the majority. This is corroborated by historical events, except in those cases when the opposition to Islamic governments was corrupt and bolstered by force of arms. You spoke about your theory that Islamic thought might triumph in fact and theory at the end of history. Alternatively, we can see that many Islamic governments rose and fell throughout history, meaning that they were not the ultimate theoretical and practical solution for those societies. In the past, circumstances were different; even the Islamic governments that were established did not attain the level that we judge to be the proper level of Islamic rule. To use a specific example: When 'Ali [Bin-Abu-Talib, the fourth caliph] was martyred and a peace treaty was concluded between his son Hasan and Mu'awiyah [Bin-Abu-Sufayn, the fifth caliph and first Umayyad ruler], government in the Islamic lands was transformed into an autocratic, hereditary, and tribal rule. Islam was not part of that government. We do not allow anyone to judge Islam by the example of the Umayyads, the Abbasids, and all those who came after them. We cannot regard them as examples of Islamic government. In the troubled past, weak governments arose. Today there is an Islamic state with a great government. It is the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was not established by a triumphant family or tribe but by a nation of 40 million. They are 60 million now. This is an Islamic state that can serve as a foundation and pillar of world Islamism. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Perhaps a major cause of our society's backwardness and weakness lies in the socioeconomic factor. This problem persists, although Islamic writers have for dozens of years been writing books and delivering lectures on the applicability of Islam as a solution to this problem, particularly as Islam is concerned with social matters. When faced with realities, some Islamic movements have failed to offer economic and social remedies. Despite the reassurances we hear about the situation in Iran, countries established on Islamic lines have not succeeded in extracting themselves from the turmoil of the international economy. Iran is not sure whether to adopt a centralized or a market economy and is directly or indirectly subject to the dictates of the international market. It faces numerous economic problems and deals with usurer banks. Where are the Islamic economic projects that can deal with these problems? How can these problems be solved?

[Nasrallah] We must give the Islamic experiment a chance to prove itself before we judge. So far it has not had such a chance. Sudan has been subjected to attrition in the south since Islamic rule was established there. Furthermore, the Islamic movement inherited a very poor Sudan that continues to face embargoes and constant pressures. Therefore, we cannot say that its economic experiment has failed because it has not yet had an economic experiment. The Sudanese people are still trying to catch their breath and assert themselves despite the crises that are constantly created for them.

As to the Islamic Republic of Iran, a new well-planned policy was pursued after the eight-year war. During the war years, the Iranian economy basically sought to prevent the country's collapse and for this reason it was geared to development, services, and consumption. Some development projects were specifically established to offer quick services to the people to enable them to face the war conditions. After the war ended, the Iranian Government had an important chance to install a new economic experiment. [passage omitted]

Islam outlines general economic principles and guidelines, leaving specific programs and detailed plans for the nation's leadership. The Islamic government in Iran faithfully adheres to these principles and is looking for the proper plan to establish a vibrant economy, drawing on the lessons it learned from the country's problems and taking possible future dangers into account. It is seeking a strong economy that will fulfill the standards of social justice, liberty, and property. In this context, it had a first five-year plan and a second five-year plan. The latter is now bearing fruit. [passage omitted]

Rabin Remark on 'Concessions' Seen as 'Manuevering'

JN2203092594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rabin Is Maneuvering Anew," the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes: As part of Israel's policy of evading the requirments for peace—and whenever the international community tightens the grip on this policy of maneuvering and tampering with words—Israel makes statements on so-called concessions to this or that party. Rabin has talked a great deal about concessions in return for peace with Syria. He reiterated this notion of concessions after he returned from Washington, supposedly seeking to learn about the nature of peace that Syria wants.

AL-BA'TH adds: Rabin's remarks are part of an attempt to search for a way out of his isolation. At the same time, these remarks are a mere semantical game, a much feigned desire for peace attempting to cover a strong adherence to occupation. The paper points out that anyone who talks about concessions should first possess legitimate property or a legitimate right to the thing he wants to relinquish. Rabin, as well as the former Israeli rulers, do not have any right whatsoever to the occupied Arab territories, and thus their alleged concessions are sheer falsehood.

The paper stresses that the territories are Arab lands with legitimate owners whose legitimate rights to these lands have been unanimously recognized by the resolutions of international legitimacy. The most important of these resolutions are the ones on which the peace process was established. Israel, however, is evading these resolutions by all ways and means.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Rabin is continuing his maneuvers and procrastination. This method, however, will not last long in view of the available opportunity for peace. This opportunity should achieve its objective.

Paper Sees 'Rare Opportunity' for Peace

JN2203084794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace Through Deeds," the newspaper TISHRIN writes: Time should not be wasted now that Shim'on Peres has stated that Israel is interested in activating the talks with Syria as a means of achieving a comprehensive settlement with the Arabs, and now that Yitzhaq Rabin has stated that it is time to hold serious negotiations and make painful decisions.

TISHRIN adds: The questions insistently posed by observers is: Has Israel learned any lessons from the terrible Hebron massacre? Has Israel actually abandoned the policy of trickery and procrastination, which it has pursued since the Madrid conference, in order to join serious negotiations in search of a lasting and firm peace?

TISHRIN continues: So far, there has been nothing tangible to suggest a real change in the Israeli position on the peace process with Syria and other Arab parties. Israeli officials were content to give hints, which are shrouded in ambiguity and obscurity, at a time when Syria is talking clearly about full peace.

The paper stresses that full [Israeli] withdrawal is a basic condition for promoting the peace process and achieving a substantive breakthrough. The whole world knows that Syria cannot sell out a single inch of the Golan and that full Israeli withdrawal from these Syrian territories cannot be bargained over.

TISHRIN cautions that further Israeli trickery at the Washington talks will only waste both time and a rare opportunity to achieve a just, comprehensive, and firm peace in the region. The paper emphasizes that when Syria talks about the Golan it looks forward to achieving full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories. The paper urges the international community to assume its responsibility, confront Israel's aggressive character, and champion the international principles and charters.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It is deeds, and not words, that count. Statements by Israeli officials are not significant unless they are translated to realities on the ground; that is, full Israeli withdrawal, recognition of Arab rights, compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, and commitment to the principle of returning the territories.

Amir of Bahrain Arrives in Damascus on Visit

Amir Meets al-Asad, Makes Statements

JN2003211394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, arrived in Damascus at 1130 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at Damascus International Airport. Also present at the airplane ramp were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Bahrain's Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad Hamad al-Muhaymid. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest at the airport's VIP lounge, President Hafiz al-Asad and his important guest left in an official motorcade for Tishrin Palace, where his highness will reside. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa is accompanied by an official delegation, including Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Transportation Minister Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad,

Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad, Minister of Trade and Agriculture Habib Ahmad Qasim, and Amiri Court Chief Yusuf Rahmah al-Dusari.

President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah held a meeting in Tishrin Palace attended by the Bahraini delegation accompanying the amir. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil, Agriculture Minister As'ad Mustafa, and Transportation Minister Dr. Radwan Martini.

In a statement to the media, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah said: It is my pleasure to be on this brotherly visit to the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic—the cradle of Arab civilization, the launching pad for pan-Arab awakening, and the rallying point for the Arabs—in order to meet with brother President Hafiz al-Asad whom we hold in deep respect and fondness for what his excellency enjoys in terms of pan-Arab devotion and a farsighted vision of current Arab and international developments. This is in addition to his honorable and firm principled stands on pan-Arab issues and toward all Arab brothers in the big Arab Homeland.

It is also my pleasure to express during this visit the deep feelings of love and solidarity the government and people of Bahrain have toward the fraternal Syrian people and their national government. Our fraternal countries met, each from their vital position in the Arab world, on the road to national commitment and adherence to the joint interests of our Arab nation in terms of its awakening and building. Syria has played a distinguished Arab role since the beginning of the process by spreading enlightened Arab awareness, entrenching the values of Arab civilization and culture, standing in solidarity with our fraternal Arab brothers at various stages and against all challenges.

Fraternal Syria's stand during the October 1973 war, championing the Arab right to Palestine and the Arab territories had a great impact in creating an effective Arab consensus. We are now in real need for solidarity under the critical circumstances we are facing to confront the rapid challenges and developments in the region and around the world. We now reaffirm our full support for the comprehensive peace process based on pan-Arab constants and principles to which we, along with sisterly Syria and fraternal Arabs, adhere. We must reaffirm that in order to achieve stability and development for the people of the entire region, the peace process should be based on the principle of comprehensive and just peace.

Peace cannot pervail without restoring the territories. Land should be exchanged for peace. Based on this basic principle, we reaffirm that Bahrain supports Syria's demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from its occupied territories and its legitimate right to the full return of the occupied Syrian Golan to Syrian sovereignty without encroaching on its international borders under any claim whatsoever.

On another pan-Arab level, we must praise Syria's just stand on the issue of liberating Kuwait and returning it to its owners. In continuation of this positive stand, Syria's coordination with its sisterly states in the Gulf Cooperation Council and with Egypt within the framework of the Damascus declaration is the best formula to support the march of Arab cooperation.

In conclusion, we look forward to more steps toward coordination and cooperation between our two fraternal countries during this renewed brotherly meeting with brother President Hafiz al-Asad and his countrymen as a reinforcement of our distinguished and constructive brotherly relations. We believe that these relations are a positive and advanced model in the march of joint Arab action. An Arab greeting from Bahrain to the leadership and people of Syria, the stronghold of Arabism.

Al-Asad, Amir Exchange Awards

JN2003212994 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, this evening held a meeting at the People's Palace. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad awarded His Highness 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, The National Umayyah Medal—Sash of the First Order. Shaykh 'Isa also awarded the president the Gulf Pendant—the highest honor in Bahrain. The president and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa exchanged words on this occasion. The president expressed his happiness to award his highness the amir the National Umayyah Medal which symbolizes the Arab nation's glory and illustrious history, as well as the pan-Arab ties among all the sons of the Arab nation. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa expressed his thanks for the hospitality and generous reception which he and the accompanying delegation received in Syria. He said: We feel that we are in our country. We consider Syria and Bahrain as one country. We are also proud of you as a president and a leader and hope that Syria will triumph over its enemies.

The exchange of medals ceremony was attended by the official Bahraini delegation accompanying his highness the amir of Bahrain. On the Syrian side, the ceremony was attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and ministers Faruq

al-Shar', Dr. Muhammad Harbah, Dr. Muhammad Salman, Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Wahib Fadil, As'ad Mustafa, and Radwan Martini.

President Hafiz al-Asad this evening held a dinner banquet in honor of Syria's guest His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain. Also attending the banquet were the delegation accompanying his highness [the amir], Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, secretary of the Presidential Office, Damascus governor, Damascus rural area governor, assistant ministers, Foreign Ministry departments heads, and heads of media organs.

Al-Asad, Amir Hold Further Talks

JN2203114194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpt] At 1030 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah met at the People's Palace to hold further talks on topics they discussed at two earlier sessions. [passage omitted]

IRNA Reports Trade Ties Discussed With Iran

LD2103135794 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, March 21, IRNA—Tehran-Damascus trade ties were discussed here today between Iran's Minister of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq and Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi.

The two sides underlined expansion of commercial ties and agreed that a committee be set up to review practical ways for expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Damascus.

Syria, Romania Sign Tourist Cooperation Agreement

JN2103111994 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—An agreement on tourist cooperation between Syria and Romania was signed yesterday at the Ministry of Tourism. It was signed for the Syrian side by Tourism Minister Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat and for the Romanian side by Tourism Minister Matei Dan. The signing ceremony was attended the two assistants of the minister of tourism, the directors of departments in the ministry, and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

The agreement stipulates that both sides will take the necessary measures to encourage and develop tourism between the two countries, simplify travel procedures, exchange recreational facilities, and encourage travel and tourist agencies to participate in trade, cultural, and tourist exhibitions held in both countries.

The agreement also provides for encouraging technical cooperation in the tourism and hotel industry and exchanging information on training and rehabilitation.

The Romanian minister of tourism visited the Tourist and Hotel Training Center in Dummar where he was acquainted with its activities and methods of work in training personnel for the tourist industry in Syria. He also visited the handicrafts market in Damascus and the historical Ma'lula area.

Afghanistan

About '1000 Armed Men' Reportedly Join Government Forces

LD2103182694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] As many as 1000 armed men joined forces of the Islamic army in Dara-e Ashraf in Pol-e Khomri, Baghlan Province. Quoting security sources of the country, military correspondent of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that forces of the Islamic army and mojahedin of Baghlan Province captured Dar-e Ashraf and security posts around Karkar coal mine in their recent operations, and in the course of [word indistinct] operation cleared a number of areas of Golboddin-Dostom militia. In the course of the operation 1000 armed men joined the ranks of the Islamic army. In recent days mojahedin of the northern provinces of the country and the armed forces have cleared many areas one after another, and have freed the afflicted people of those areas from the oppression of Golboddin and Dostum. After the conquest of the North Salang, Khinjan, Doshi, and Konduz Province, the advance of the Islamic army and mojahedin continue toward Pol-e Khomri and Mazar-e Sharif.

According to a report of the security sources, the advance towards Pol-e Khomri and Dara-e Kayan continues. And losing their combat morale, militia leave battle fronts and escape. Similarly the series of surrenders to the islamic and mojahedin of the militia goes on. The resistance of the militia crumbles in Pol-e Khomri after the fall of Dara-e Ashraf and the security posts in its periphery;, their despair increases. The source said five security posts had been captured in the surrounding area of Karkar coal mine, and 60 militia were captured, four militia were killed, and five others were injured. Similarly 30 Kalashnikovs, three rocket launchers, one 82-mm artillery piece, three wireless sets, and one BM-1 rocket launcher set have been captured. According to another report the stratigically important security post of Sholana in the northeast of Division 83 has been captured. As a result 35 militia have been taken prisoner, (?three) Kalashnikovs, three rocket launchers, two ZK-1 machine guns, and one R109 wireless set have been captured. Operations against militia continue in those areas.

India

New Delhi Asks Pakistan To Resume Talks on All Issues

BK2103161094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] India today expressed its desire for an early resumption of foreign secretary-level talks with Pakistan. This was conveyed by the foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, to the Pakistan's high commissioner, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, in New Delhi today. Seeking an early positive response from Pakistan, the foreign secretary said the talks can either be held in New Delhi or Islamabad at the convenience of Pakistan. Mr. Srinivasan conveyed New Delhi's formal reply to Pakistan's comments and counterproposals on the six Indian nonpapers.

Regretting Pakistan's negative approach, Mr. Srinivasan reiterated India's desire for a dialogue with Pakistan under the Simla agreement on all outstanding issues. The foreign secretary conveyed to the high commissioner that India's proposals were formulated in absolute realism and flexibility, signaling its preparedness to carry forward the process of normalization of bilateral relations.

According to External Affairs Ministry sources, Mr. Srinivasan touched upon each of India's nonpapers and gave an assessment of Pakistan's counterproposals. On the proposal to maintain peace and tranquillity on the Line of Control, the foreign secretary said it is aimed at eliminating tension in the relations and is prepared without any prejudice to the positions taken by the two governments on larger issues.

On Siachen, India regretted that Pakistan has disavowed the understanding reached at the talks in New Delhi during November 1992. However, New Delhi is prepared to hold talks on Siachen based on pre-1992 talks.

Regarding Sir Creek maritime boundary issue, the foreign secretary requested Pakistan to reconsider India's proposal. Regarding Tulbul navigation project, Mr. Srinivasan reminded Pakistan that its comment is factually incorrect. Indian proposal was in the form of a draft agreement which New Delhi is prepared to ratify and wanted Pakistan's response to that.

Regarding India's proposal to initiate confidence-building measures, he said Pakistan's response was not forthcoming. Hoping that Islamabad will respond, Mr. Srinivasan said these measures will help reduce tensions and improve bilateral relations. India welcomes Pakistan's suggestion to include more areas in the ambit of joint commission.

On Pakistan's nonpapers regarding the modalities of conducting a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, India dismissed that there is nothing new in the proposal and New Delhi's stand was made clear during the foreign secretary-level talks.

Mr. Srinivasan also took up with the Pakistan high commissioner the restrictions imposed on the Indian Consulate in Karachi by totally blocking the access to the consulate for the local public. He hoped the Pakistan authorities will allow the Indian Consulate to carry out its functions normally.

Pakistan Decision To Close Bombay Mission, 'Regretted'

BK2103130294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] India today regretted Pakistan's decision to close its consulate office in Bombay. Responding to a question at the daily briefing in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said Islamabad's action falls into the continuing and regrettable pattern of taking negative actions which are not conducive to good neighborly relations. He pointed out that India has always tried to assist in creating a climate in which the Pakistani Consulate can perform its functions. Regarding accommodation, the spokesman said Pakistan was not interested in certain locations offered by the Maharashtra Government as was clarified by the chief minister himself. He said Pakistanis themselves know the accommodation problem in metropolitan cities and pointed out that India is paying markets rates for its properties in Islamabad and Karachi.

Commentary Justifies Closure of Karachi Consulate

BK2203121194 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Commentary by Samuel Ved: "Closure of Indian Consulate in Karachi"]

[Text] The closure of the Indian Consulate in Karachi caused no surprise after Pakistan announced its decision on Sunday that it was closing its consulate in Bombay with immediate effect. The Pakistani announcement in Islamabad puzzled many here, and more so its logic given by that country's Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan. Islamabad alleged that the Indian Government had gone back on its commitment to lease the Jinnah House for the use of the Consulate General and refused to facilitate the acquisition of suitable premises for the Consulate General. It also accused the government of Maharashtra of making it difficult for the Consulate General to carry out its assigned functions. On their very face, these charges look flimsy and unconvincing. For example, India is on record of having rejected Pakistan's plea for the use of Jinnah House as long as 1983 when General Zia approached New Delhi with this request. Subsequently, India gave no impression that it was not firm on its rejection of the Pakistani request. India was also not obliged to find a place for Pakistan in Bombay. Pakistan knew it and yet it made the Jinnah House and its failure to find a suitable place for its Consulate General as an excuse for winding up its work in Bombay.

Pakistan seems to have perfected the art of accusing others of the sins which it itself commits. India's High Commission in Islamabad and its Consulate General in Karachi worked under all kinds of trying conditions. In May 1992, a senior diplomat, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, was abducted and tortured by Pakistani intelligence agencies. It was such an awful incident that even Amnesty International deplored it. Before that, the wife of an attache was abducted while shopping and questioned about the activities of her husband and other staff members of the High Commission. In Karachi, the Indian staff was kept under constant intimidation. Those Pakistani Sindhis and Muhajirs who visited the consulate were branded as Indian agents. In August 1992, the two countries signed an agreement on the code of conduct for treatment of diplomatic, consular personnel in the two countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Vienna Convention of 1962 on diplomatic relations and the Vienna Convention of 1963 on consular relations. However, as the year 1992 came to a close, Pakistan gave this accord its own interpretation and asked India to curtail the strength of its staff in Karachi to less than one-third, that is, from 68 to 20. The Pakistani order mainly hurt the Muhajir community in Sindh. Muhajirs are refugees from India. They still have family ties in India. The Indian Consulate was issuing 700 visas a day to them to visit their relatives. The community which has been suffering political deprivations and discriminations because mainly of their language, Urdu, will now be denied the facility to meet relatives in India.

Pakistan's sudden decision to close the consulate in Bombay came at a time when India, after the Geneva episode, was trying to create conditions for the restart of efforts to normalize relations with this important neighbor. This desire has received a setback. There could have been two reasons why Pakistan chose to close down its consulate at this time. First, because of its domestic compulsion, the government of Ms. Benazir Bhutto was trying to preempt the reopening of India-Pakistan dialogue on normalization of relations. Ms. Bhutto finds herself in an acutely embarrassing situation after the loss of face in Geneva. She calls it her victory, but the opposition remains unconvinced, especially in view of all the claims before the withdrawal of Pakistan's resolutions from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva that a large number of commission members were willing to vote for the resolution. At present, Ms. Bhutto's government will find it difficult to restart negotiations with India.

The second reason may be Pakistani intelligence agencies' strategy to keep the Muhajirs from meeting their relations in India. Muhajirs have been the special target of the military operations in Sindh, which began in May 1992. A section of the Urdu press feels no compunction in accusing the Muhajirs of being anti-Pakistan.

Clashes, Casualties Reported in Kashmir

BK2103151794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred another 13 people during their repressive operations at various places in the valley. Two brothers were shot dead in Khanbal as they were working in the field, while three people were martyred in a village near Sopor.

The rest of the people were victims of Indian atrocities in Hindwara, Baramula, and some other places. During these operations, the occupation troops also torched a number of houses. In response to the growing Indian atrocities, the mojahedin have stepped up their retaliatory attacks and have killed four Indian soldiers on Srinagar-Jammu road. According to reports, a mojahed commander, Farooq Ahmad Butt, attacked a convoy of Indian troops with live grenade. Two soldiers were blown to bits, while 11 others were critically injured. The mojahed leader was also martyred in the attack.

Paper Deems U.S. 'Evil Empire;' Retaliation Urged

BK1903135094 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Mar 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Another Evil Empire"]

[Text] Only those living in a world of make believe will shrug off the possibility of the world's two largest democracies being on a collision course. The US is still in the process of fully coming to terms with its status as the unchallenged global power. There is, however, one area where there are not only no signs of departure from the old cold war approach, but positive evidence of efforts to perpetuate and even enhance the traditional anti-Indian thrust of American policy in South Asia. This was clearly hinted by the Raphels and Mallots of the State Department last year that they were meant to prepare the way for a clear-cut anti-Indian edge to US policy now seems obvious from the Clinton administration's stubborn reluctance to heed the decision of Congress to persist with the Pressler Amendment. Since then Senator Pressler has found it necessary to reiterate, more vehemently than before, his charge that the administration plans to resume military sales to Pakistan banned by the 1985 amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act. Pressler's assertion that Pentagon is trying to achieve the aim of effectively removing the amendment through the back-door, namely, by making a "one-time exception" has now been confirmed by Robin Raphel in her deposition before the Ackerman sub-committee. The "exception" aims to clear the long-standing proposal to sell 71 F-16 fighter aircraft to Pakistan. Pressler has warned that the withdrawal of the only piece of non-proliferation legislation will have disastrous consequences.

Before the Soviet Union crumbled in a heap, the rationale behind US mollycoddling of successive Pakistani military dictators was a blind hatred of the "evil empire" that played footsie with socialists in New Delhi. It would have been logical if in today's unipolar context, Washington no longer found it worth its while to accord preferential status to Pakistan. After all, in purely economic terms the lure of an untapped Indian market is worth more than the price of courting one Benazir Bhutto. However, precisely the opposite is happening.

It is to be hoped that no security wiseacre will emerge in New Delhi to underplay the proposed sabotage of the Pressler Amendment as nothing but a ploy to prevent Lockheed, the manufacturers of F- 16, from going under. It is some reassurance that Narasimha Rao bluntly told Senator Pressler last month that the removal of the Amendment would force India to review its defence policy. The Prime Minister was, however, being characteristically mild. The antics of the Clinton administration call for an entire revision of Indian foreign policy to take into account the threat from a democratic, but no less "evil empire". Diplomacy is one facet of the counter-offensive, but New Delhi may also find it prudent to retaliate in other ways, namely by curbing its slavish endorsement of US economic hegemonism. There are risks, but India must be prepared to take them.

Iran

Khamene'i Comments on U.S., Other Issues

LD2103181994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpts] His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, gave a speech this afternoon, on the first day of the New Year, at a gathering of the people of Mashhad and pilgrims to the holy shrine of the eighth Imam, Imam Reza.

He described the nature of the dictatorial system ruling the world. He referred to the false propaganda and machinations of arrogant powers against Islam and the Iranian nation as clear signs of their fear of the lofty ideals of the Islamic system.

The great leader of the revolution said the emphasis of the Muslim nation and government of Iran on the independence of nations and their sovereignty over their own natural resources and wealth suits none of the world powers.

He said: Today, no call for justice is raised from any country except the Iranian nation and Government against the oppression committed under the blanket of the new order of domination of nations in the world. That is a fact which is confirmed and admired by all fair-minded observers throughout the world.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said the struggle of the Iranian nation in the eight-year war imposed by the Iraqi regime and the unjust powers backing it was a cause for all arrogant powers to fear the Iranian nation. He said: While the world's political and economic powers plunder, at the lowest prices, the natural resources of developing countries, or countries held back, the Iranian people, with their slogan of independence and struggle against arrogant powers, continues its course.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said the great and glorious resistance of the Iranian nation over the past 15 years has been a source of hope to other nations. Describing the conspiracies of the ringleaders of arrogance to crush the resistance of the Iranian nation, he

said: America's guileful remarks in expressing willingness to establish ties with Iran is not tantamount to its acceptance of past mistakes or an undertaking to mend [illegible] ways in the future. It is a deceitful and evil move.

The great leader of the Islamic revolution said: America has said establishing ties with Iran would be subject to the Iranian nation discarding its fundamental stances. One of which principles is noninterference by arrogant powers in the affairs of the Iranian nation. They should know that the great Iranian nation, which has an ancient culture and a glorious, historical past, has become like tempered steel after overcoming great difficulties and would never accept domination by America and arrogant powers.

Stressing the alertness and presence of every Iranian on various scenes, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: Today, a great national, Islamic, and divine movement prevails throughout Iran and the Iranian nation is proud of what it has achieved up to now. The president, statesmen, Majles deputies, and the judiciary officials have all risen from the bosom of the people and have popular sentiments and direction. And the country's officials should, in a joint effort with the help of the people, endeavor to overcome shortages and eradicate problems. They should traverse this clear course by utilizing the blessings of Islam, the Koran, divine guidance, and the Imam's [Khomeyni's] instructions.

Referring to the Koran's verses and wisdom about the necessity for Muslims to be alert, aware, and watchful the great leader said: Those who are intoxicated with lust and power are negligent. They consider as their enemy those who have been awakened by God's guiding light. Therefore, they are trying to make them ignorant like themselves and distract them from their right path. And the Iranian nation, because of its great divine victory in raising the banner of Islam and making proud the name of God and the prophets in the world, must today regard the mention of God's name and divine guidance as a fundamental issue and shed any negligence in various aspects of its life. [passage omitted]

Majles Deputies View Budget Amendments

LD1803210294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Interview with Majles deputies Qorban 'Ali Dorri-Najafabandi, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Morteza Nabavi, and Mohsen Yahyavi, by unidentified Central News Unit parliamentary correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Following the approval of the General Budget Bill of the country for the year 1373 [starting 21 March] by the Islamic Consultative Majles and its approval by the Guardian Council, we have interviewed a number of Majles deputies and the chairmen of specialized committees about the major aspects and characteristics of this bill. Concerning the changes which have been made in next year's budget, [Qorban 'Ali] Dorri-Najafabadi, chairman of the Plan and Budget Committee of the Islamic Consultative Majles, said:

[Dorri-Najafabadi] In the first instance, the changes which were made were changes in the revenue which constituted a major change between the bill approved by the Majles and the bill presented by the government. There was nearly a change of 380 billion tumans [each tuman is 10 rials] in the general sector. If you add to this the government owned companies, the figure will show a difference of 1,000 billion tumans between the figure approved by the Majles and the figure presented by the government in the budget bill. In other words, the figure approved by the Majles is less than that proposed by the government. Of course, certain mechanisms have been instituted so that if certain incomes were received by the government as part of their revenue the government would be able to cater for it.

The next change which we introduced in this connection, is stressing and changing the ratio of the revenue [as heard]. We have made major changes in the revenue from taxation, especially the revenue from customs duty and commercial benefit tax [sud-e bazargani]. This was a positive change in the direction of supporting the domestic products of the country. First of all, we have introduced some savings in the current sector, between 7 percent and 13 percent [as heard]. We have made subsidies universal, so that in the coming year the government will provide subsidies for essential goods and medicine as far as it can and which can be sustained by the present conditions.

We have taken good steps concerning deprived areas, above the ceiling set by the government budget. Although we have reduced the budget by 380 billion tumans, we have not reduced the ceiling. On the contrary, we have provided greater assistance, we have increased the amount in this budget.

[Correspondent] Mohammad Reza Bahonar, deputy from Tehran and spokesman of the Financial and Economic Committee of the Majles, also concerning the main elements of the budget and mechanisms for preventing an increase in prices and controlling inflation believes:

[Bahonar] To be able to balance our revenue with our expenditure, we have put some pressure on some unnecessary government expenditures. In one sentence, if we are going to move toward a policy of balancing the budget we should achieve a balance between general demand and general supply. Demand has two main sources: From the government sector and from the people. So far, the pressure has been placed on reducing the public demand by increasing prices. However, alongside reducing public demand, we can at least reduce the demand by the government to some extent. This can be done by reducing government expenditure. If the government demand is reduced at least to the level of the reduction in public demand, the situation of expenditure

will be improved in favor of the people. I think that if we wish to define in one word the characteristics of the 1373 budget compared to previous budgets, we should say that it can be summarized as:

1. Being more realistic about our revenue;

2. Reducing expenditure on the basis of our revenue;

3. Concentrating these reductions in unnecessary expenditures. Where the expenditure has been necessary not only have we not reduced it, on the contrary we have even increased it.

Another important issue that we can see in the budget is the issue of supervising and controlling bank credits. For the first time, we have defined bank credits and we have allocated 55 percent of banking loans and credits to the people. In controlling inflation—the most important reason for which is the increase of cash in circulation [roshd-e naqdinegi]—we have controlled this increase in circulation for the coming year. In technical language, we have limited the growth in banking facilities to 7,000 billion rials [roshd-e mande-ye tashilat-e banki ra dar mahdudeh-ye haft hezar milliar rial motevaqqef kardim]. If this increase is brought under control, and God willing it will be controlled, we hope that next year the growth in our cash flow will be about 15 percent. The increase in Gross National Product should also be calculated, and these two will determine how much is going to be the increase in our inflation.

[Correspondent] Regarding some of the directions, specifics, and also the effects of the rial's exchange rate on the amount of foreign currency allocated to subsidize essential goods, Morteza Nabavi, a representative of the people of Tehran said the following:

[Nabavi] Since no mechanism has been thought of to cushion the poor members of society against the effects of an increase in the price of gasoline and other oil products, the Majles did not agree to raise the prices of these products. This was welcomed by the people. An increase in the price of these products without a program to neutralize the effects of this on the life of the oppressed would have increased pressure on the people.

Last year, the amount of currency allocated to subsidizing essential goods was worked out at the exchange rate of seven tumans to the dollar. [Words indistinct] This year, the currency allocated to subsidizing essential goods was worked out at 175 tumans. The rial for this has been predicted so that payment can be made [as heard]. As a result, as far as the people are concerned, the price of essential goods reaching them will not change. In other words, the price at which rationed essential goods were offered to the people through coupons this year will not change next year.

[Correspondent] The topic of income generated through the sale of oil and other related issues were addressed by Mohsen Yahyavi, a deputy from Tehran and the head of the Oil Committee of the Islamic Consultative Majles:

[Yahyavi] The psychological and technical factors that affect the production of oil, and also the price of oil, were assessed by the Majles during its debate on the budget bill. In the end, what the Majles approved, that is for the ceiling of income from oil sales for the year 1373, was $10.154 billion. This is nearly $1.646 billion less than the income predicted by the government. We are now able to provide most of the raw materials of our factories. There is less need than before for currency to obtain such materials.

Pakistan

Bhutto—Kashmir Issue Threatens Regional Security

BK2203083694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said Pakistan cannot ignore its defense requirements and will continue to strengthen its defense forces within its limited resources. Addressing the Punjab regiment darbar [meeting] in Mardan today, she said Pakistan does not want confrontation with any country. However, the issue of Jammu and Kashmir has threatened the security of the region. She said Pakistan wants a peaceful and an early solution to the Kashmir issue. Ms. Benazir Bhutto stressed the need for a united strategy on national issues, including Jammu and Kashmir. She called on political parties to get together and draw up a joint strategy on the issue. The prime minister said the strength of the nation depends on the economy and therefore economic development of the country is top priority of her government. Referring to the law and order situation, she said the government is utilizing all its resources to eradicate social evils, including drug trafficking. She announced a grant of Rupees 80 lakhs for the Punjab regiment.

Foreign Office Closes Bombay Mission

BK2003112194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Pakistan has decided to close down its Consulate General in Bombay with immediate effect.

The Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad was called to the Foreign Office today and informed of Pakistan's decision. A spokesman of the Foreign Office said that this decision was taken because the Consulate General found it impossible to function effectively due to non-cooperative and negative attitude of Indian authorities. The spokesman recalled that Indian Government had gone back on its commitment to leave the Jinnah House for use of the Consulate General in Bombay. The Indian authorities had even refused to (?permit) the acquisition of the principal premises for the Consulate General. The Maharashtra Government had in fact acted in a manner that made it extremely difficult for the Consulate General to carry out its assigned functions.